



**ACTION ALERT #5 -
There's Still Time to Get Involved and Save DD Services**

**MASSIVE CUTS INCLUDED IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET --
THE TIME TO ADVOCATE IS NOW!**

Much attention has been paid to the cuts that will occur in the current fiscal year if additional revenue is not identified, but the proposed cuts in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (beginning July 1st) would be equally devastating to many people with disabilities. Governor John Bel Edwards released this proposed budget on February 14th. According to state law he cannot propose a budget with expenditures that exceed expected revenue. As a result, if the legislature does not identify additional revenue during the special session to make up the \$940 Million budget shortfall for the current budget year AND the \$2 Billion shortfall for the year beginning July 1st, people with disabilities will be severely impacted.

Click [here](#) to view/download the Council's latest fact sheet which details the impacts of the cuts proposed in the FY17 budget.

If these cuts are not restored, the home and community-based service system that has been built over the last twenty-five years will be destroyed or damaged beyond repair. People will be forced out of their own homes and communities and into more costly institutional care.

The New Opportunities Waiver is critical and must be funded, but the other 3 DD Waivers are also critical and must be funded. In addition, ALL of the services on the fact sheet MUST BE RESTORED. These other services are also vital in keeping people at home and out of costly institutions.

What Can I Do to Help?

**CONTACT HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS
BY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD**

The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to vote on various legislative instruments within the next two days. If you care about any of the services impacted by these proposed cuts, they need to hear from you! If you have not yet contacted the Chairman and committee members, do so today! Let them know your story, how these services are improving your life, and what the impact would be on you and your family if they were eliminated.

ATTEND YELLOW SHIRT DAY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

Members will meet at the Capitol at 8:45 am in your yellow LaCAN shirts to attend one or more committee meetings. An update will be sent out via email and Facebook on Wednesday afternoon letting you know the meeting room location(s).

In addition to our big Yellow Shirt Day on Thursday, LaCAN members are encouraged to show up in yellow LaCAN shirts on any day of the Special Session (now through 3/9/16) to remind our legislators of the need to identify additional revenue to protect DD services.

Click [here](#) for more information on key committees and upcoming schedules.

SHARE YOUR STORY

If you are interested in providing public testimony during the Special Session, send your personal story to your LaCAN Leader. Your story should be 2-3 minutes in length and detail how you or a loved one's life would be impacted by losing your current services. Your LaCAN Leader can also help you develop your testimony if you are unsure of what to say.

How to Contact House Ways and Means?

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| All Regions Neil Abramson | Committee Chairman abramson@legis.la.gov | (504) 275-8051 |
| Regions 1/10 Neil Abramson (Chair) Joseph Bouie Jimmy Harris Stephanie Hilferty Julie Stokes Thomas Willmott | New Orleans Area abramson@legis.la.gov bouiej@legis.la.gov harrisj@legis.la.gov hilfertys@legis.la.gov stokesj@legis.la.gov willmott@legis.la.gov | (504) 275-8051 (504) 286-1033 (504) 243-1960 (504) 885-4151 (504) 462-8603 (504) 465-3479 |
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| Region 3 Thomas Willmott | Houma/Thibodaux Area willmott@legis.la.gov | (504) 465-3479 |
| Region 4 Phillip Devillier Mike Huval | Lafayette Area devillierp@legis.la.gov huvalm@legis.la.gov | (337) 457-0194 (337) 332-3331 |
| Region 5 Stephen Dwight | Lake Charles Area dwrights@legis.la.gov | (337) 491-2315 |
| Region 6 Robert Johnson | Alexandria Area johnsoro@legis.la.gov | (318) 253-8891 |
| Region 7 Jim Morris (Vice-Chair) Dodie Horton | Shreveport Area larep001@legis.la.gov hortond@legis.la.gov | (318) 995-6852 (318) 949-2463 |
| Region 8 Jay Morris Marcus Hunter | Monroe Area morriscj@legis.la.gov hunterm@legis.la.gov | (318) 362-4270 (318) 362-3440 |
| Region 9 Chris Broadwater | Hammond/Northshore Area broadwaterc@legis.la.gov | (985) 543-4900 |

Contact Us

If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact LaCAN by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

Email: info@lacanadvocates.org

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: www.lacanadvocates.org

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LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](#).