



LaCAN

Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

ACTION ALERT - Contact Senate Finance Committee to Protect Critical Supports and Services for Vulnerable Populations



Funding for essential services for children and adults with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable populations is at risk. These health care and support services are subject to the majority of cuts in times of budget shortfalls, as many other parts of the budget are protected. [SB 355](#) by Sen. Fred Mills calls for a constitutional amendment to provide protection for these critical services.

Contact the Chairman and members of the Senate Finance Committee in your region to ask for their support in protecting critical health care and support services for vulnerable populations. SB 355 would provide for this protection.

Contact the Senate Finance Committee

ALL REGIONS Contact Chairman

Jack Donahue (Chairman) donahuej@legis.la.gov (985) 727-7949

Region 1 - New Orleans Area

Edwin R. Murray murraye@legis.la.gov (504) 945-0042

Region 2 - Baton Rouge Area

Dan Claitor claitord@legis.la.gov (225) 765-0206

"Bodi" White whitem@legis.la.gov (225) 272-1324

Region 3 - Houma/Thibodaux Area

"Bret" Allain, II allainb@legis.la.gov (337) 828-9107

"Norby" Chabert (Vice-Chair) chabertn@legis.la.gov (985) 858-2927

Region 4 - Lafayette Area

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Fred H. Mills, Jr. millsf@legis.la.gov (337) 365-8484

"Blade" Morrish (Interim Member) morrishd@legis.la.gov (337) 824-3979

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Region 6 - Alexandria Area

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Gerald Long (Interim Member) longg@legis.la.gov (318) 628-5799

Francis Thompson (Interim Member) thompsof@legis.la.gov (318) 878-9408

Region 7 - Shreveport Area

Sherri Smith Buffington	smithbuffington@legis.la.gov	(318) 687-4820
Gregory Tarver	tarverg@legis.la.gov	(318) 227-1499
Gerald Long (Interim Member)	longg@legis.la.gov	(318) 628-5799
Mike Walsworth (Interim Member)	walsworthm@legis.la.gov	(318) 340-6453

Region 8 - Monroe Area

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Mike Walsworth (Interim Member)	walsworthm@legis.la.gov	(318) 340-6453

Region 9 - Hammond/Northshore Area

Jack Donahue (Chairman)	donahuej@legis.la.gov	(985) 727-7949
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Region 10 - Jefferson Parish

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Don't know your region? Click [here](#) to find out.

Help Writing Your Email

Begin by sharing your current situation:

Write your opening sentence about you or your family or friends. Below are some examples.

- My son receives NOW waiver services. These and other services for people with developmental disabilities have been cut in the past.
- My daughter is on the waiting list for NOW waiver services. These and other services for people with developmental disabilities have been cut in the past.
- We receive services through our regional human services authority. These and other services for people with developmental disabilities have been cut in the past.

End by telling your legislator how he/she can help:

"Please protect the funding for critical supports and services to vulnerable populations. SB 355 would provide for this protection."

For more information for your letter, see background information below. For additional help in writing your letter, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know you took action!

[Reply](#) to this email or notify your LaCAN Leader to confirm your action.

Why confirm your action?

This helps us to know how effective we are in reaching you with this information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

Background Information

Critical health care and support services are vulnerable because they are the few parts of the state budget that are not protected. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Home and community based waiver services
- Individual and family supports for people with disabilities
- Mental health services
- Hospice
- Services provided by Councils on Aging
- Primary care
- EarlySteps
- Employment supports for people with disabilities

Last year the legislature passed laws calling for constitutional protection of rates for hospitals, nursing homes, residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities, and pharmacies. There is a bill in the 2014 session calling for constitutional protection for higher education. If these constitutional amendments are approved by voters in

November, other health care and support services for seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations will take the brunt of cuts when there is a budget shortfall.

Any Questions?

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.

Contact LaCAN

Email: laicanadvocates44@yahoo.com

Phone: 1-800-450-8108

Web: <http://www.laicanadvocates.org>

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