



## Action Alert #6

### Act Now to Avoid Elimination/Cuts to Vital Services

February 9, 2018

#### **ATTEND YELLOW SHIRT DAYS and CONTACT MEMBERS of the WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

The legislature will meet in Special Session from February 19 through March 7, 2018 to address the state's \$1 Billion shortfall for the fiscal year beginning July 1st (Fiscal Year 2019). Should sufficient revenue not be identified, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) would be cut over **\$650 million** in state general funds (\$2.4 Billion including federal matching funds). Massive cuts in this amount would reduce or eliminate numerous programs and services for people with developmental disabilities currently funded in LDH's budget:

- Elimination of Children's Choice and Supports Waivers
- Elimination of Long Term Personal Care Services
- Elimination of Pediatric Day Health Care Centers
- Elimination of Supported Independent Living in the New Opportunities Waiver
- Stricter financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid long term care services (impacting 57% of current home and community based waiver recipients and ICF/DD residents)
- Significant reduction to behavioral health and addictive disorder services

If these services are important to you, **NOW** is the time to take action!

### **How to Take Action**

**Attend yellow shirt day at the Capitol in Baton Rouge.**

- **WHEN:** Monday, February 19th, 3:00 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Louisiana State Capitol, House Chambers, First Floor

In addition to the main yellow shirt day on February 19th, LaCAN members are encouraged to attend any House Ways and Means committee meeting where revenue raising measures will be discussed throughout the Special Session. Check the [legislative website](#) for committee schedules or contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

- House Ways and Means Committee, Room 6

Contact the Chairman and members of the House Ways and Means committee from your region.

- Share your personal story about how the elimination or cuts to any of the programs would affect you and your family. Let the committee members know that **sufficient revenue is needed to avoid these eliminations and cuts to vital services for you, your family member, other people with disabilities and all vulnerable populations.**

**All Regions**

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## 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 the Council know how effective we are in reaching you with this important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

## Legislative Roundtable Schedule

The 2018 Legislative Roundtables have been occurring throughout the state and provide the opportunity for individuals to get more information about the issues on the Council and LaCAN's advocacy agenda and connect with policymakers.

Click [here](#) for the 2018 Legislative Roundtable schedule. Missed your region's roundtable? No problem! Attend one of the other regional roundtables.

Those interested in visiting legislators, attending roundtables or participating in other advocacy events should contact their regional [LaCAN Leader](#).

## Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: [info@laddc.org](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

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Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

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