



Action Alert #11 Contact Your State Representative to Save DD Services

April 17, 2018



Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee amended then voted [House Bill 1](#) (HB1) out of committee. As it stands now, the budget for next year has a shortfall of \$648 million in state funds. Most of this shortfall will hit the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) which will result in a total cut of \$1.6 billion (including federal matching funds). While some services for people with developmental disabilities were restored, many others were not. The House Appropriations Committee chose to fully fund TOPS over services to people with disabilities and health care.

Partial funding (approximately \$58 Million in state general fund) was restored to LDH's budget for certain programs/services for individuals with developmental disabilities including:

- Children's Choice and Supports Waiver
- Supported Independent Living in the NOW
- Support Coordination Rate Reduction in the NOW
- Long Term Personal Care Services

Funding was NOT restored for the following:

- The Long Term Care Special Income Level Program, which imposes stricter financial eligibility criteria for adults receiving Medicaid waiver and residential services. **Over 57% of current adult waiver recipients and community home/institutional residents will lose eligibility and their services.**
- Pediatric Day Health Care Centers
- Many other services provided by LDH such as mental health, substance abuse, and hospitals.

(The budget DOES include \$5.1 Million appropriated from the NOW Fund for waiver services. More information on this will be provided in another alert.)

The budget now heads to the full House where it is expected to be debated on Thursday, April 19th.

If you would like to see all the funding for LDH restored, **NOW** is the time to take action.

How To Take Action

When the House is in session, you can call and speak with your State Representative on the House Floor. Call this Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, April 17th, 18th, or 19th, at 225-342-6945.

Send your Representative an email. Click [here](#) for State representative's full contact information.

Don't know your State Representative? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative.

What to Say?

Please end the regular legislative session early and support a special session to identify sufficient revenue to avoid the devastating cuts included in the proposed budget. The budget passed by the Appropriations Committee will result in:

- **Over 57% of current adult waiver recipients and community home and institutional residents losing their eligibility and therefore, losing their services.**
- Pediatric Day Health Centers closing
- Loss of mental health and substance abuse services
- Loss of hospital capacity and potential hospital closures

Tell your representative how the loss of these services would impact you or someone you know.

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

website: www.laddc.org/LaCAN

facebook: www.facebook.com/lacanadvocates

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