



Action Alert #12
Contact Senate Finance Committee and Attend Public Testimony Day for Funding of DD Services

May 3, 2018



The Senate Finance Committee needs to hear from you on the proposed budget NOW and SEE you in a YELLOW SHIRT on Monday, May 7th at 8:00 a.m. on Public Testimony Day. Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the committee.

What Funding is NOT Included in the Proposed Budget (HB1)

ELIMINATION of the following two programs for people with developmental disabilities:

- Special Income Level Program - 57% of current home and community-based adult waiver recipients with developmental disabilities and ICF/DD adult residents **will lose their services without this program**, which expands the monthly income limit from \$750 - \$2,250 for Medicaid long term care services.
- Pediatric Day Health Care Centers

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is also facing cuts totaling **\$1.8 Billion** (including state and federal matching funds) that will impact hospitals and other community services people with disabilities and their families use.

Funding for the Implementation of TEFRA is also NOT included in the proposed budget. TEFRA would provide Medicaid coverage to children with developmental disabilities regardless of parental income.

What Funding IS Included in the Proposed Budget

Thanks to your ongoing advocacy, funding was restored for:

- Children's Choice Waiver
- Supports Waiver and Supported Independent Living in the NOW (although a

large percentage of recipients will no longer be eligible without the Special Income Level Program that was not restored)

- Long Term Personal Care Services

In addition, on April 12th the Revenue Estimating Conference recognized revenue in excess of the Official Forecast triggering a deposit of \$19.9 million into the [NOW Fund](#). \$12.1 million from that fund has been included in HB1 to be used as follows:

- 650 additional waiver slots for those individuals in the most urgent need (the additional 150 slots in LaCAN's original request will be filled through attrition slots)
- An enhanced waiver rate for people with complex medical and/or behavioral needs
- An increase in the night rate in the NOW

How To Take Action

If you believe the cuts to LDH should be restored and funding should be added to implement TEFRA, **NOW** is the time to take action!

CONTACT the CHAIRPERSON of the SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE and MEMBERS from your region before May 7th. See list of members and contact information below.

ATTEND YELLOW SHIRT DAY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

WHEN: Monday, May 7th at 8:00 a.m. (Arrive early to get a seat)

WHERE: Senate Committee Room A-B
Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge, LA

If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#). **Arrive early to ensure you get a seat in the committee room.**

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All Regions

Committee Chairman

Eric LaFleur lafleure@legis.la.gov (337) 363-5019

Region 1

New Orleans Area

Conrad Appel appelc@legis.la.gov (504) 838-5550

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

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Houma / Thibodaux Area

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Region 6	Alexandria / Central LA Area	
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Region 7	Shreveport / Northwest Area	
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Region 8	Monroe / Northeast Area	
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Region 9	Hammond / Northshore Area	
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Mack "Bodi" White	whitem@legis.la.gov	(225) 272-1324
Region 10	Jefferson / New Orleans Area	
Conrad Appel	appelc@legis.la.gov	(504) 838-5550

What to Say?

First, introduce yourself and say if you have a disability or family member or friend with a disability. Then, include three points:

- **Restore cuts to LDH so thousands of adults with disabilities will not lose their waiver services and other vital services are protected.** (If you or someone you know is one of these people, include how the loss of waiver services will impact you or your family member or friend.)
- **Appropriate funding to implement the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option.** (If your child or someone you know would benefit from TEFRA, include how this would impact your child or your friend.)
- **End the regular legislative session early so another special session to address the state's fiscal cliff can be called.**

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.

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

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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