



Action Alert #13 - Act Now to Protect DD Services

May 21, 2018

Governor Edwards vetoed the budget (HB1) late Friday evening after the 2018 Regular Legislative Session ended. The House had agreed on the Senate's version of HB1 that restored funding to the LA Department of Health (LDH), sending a clear message that services for people with disabilities and healthcare are a priority. However, to fund LDH, nearly every other state department was cut by 24%, leading to the Governor's veto of what he called a "catastrophic budget." Legislators and the administration agreed cuts of this magnitude are not sustainable and additional revenue is needed. Governor Edwards issued a [Call for a Special Session](#) to begin tomorrow, May 22nd, and end by June 4th.

One or more appropriations bills are expected to be filed during the Special Session, although only one is likely to move out of the Appropriations Committee.

Although legislators clearly prioritized services for people with disabilities and funding for LDH, advocacy must continue throughout special session. Additional revenue must be raised to ensure LDH and other government programs people with disabilities depend upon are fully funded.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

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

- This committee is primarily responsible for raising additional revenue.

All Regions

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Region 1

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Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
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Also contact your State Representative and Senator.

- Don't know who your State Representative or Senator is? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative followed by your State Senator.

WHAT TO SAY

Introduce yourself and say if you have a disability or family members or friend with a disability. Then, include three points:

- Thank you for recognizing that healthcare and services for people with disabilities should be a priority in the budget.
- Sufficient revenue is needed to fully fund LDH, including services for people with disabilities (If you or someone you know would lose services if LDH is not fully funded, share that).
- Sufficient revenue is needed to fund basic state services that all LA citizens depend on.

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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