



**UPDATE Action Alert #12**  
**Continue Contacting Senate Finance Committee for Funding of DD Services**

May 8, 2018



The Senate Finance Committee has yet to vote on the proposed budget and needs to hear from you NOW!! **Important update and correction below in red.**

**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 waiver recipients with developmental disabilities and ICF/DD residents **will lose their services without this program**, which expands the monthly income limit from \$750 - \$2,250 for Medicaid long term care services. **Originally, it was reported only adult waiver and ICF/DD residents would be impacted by the elimination of this program. However, according to the [LDH Fiscal Cliff Reductions](#) document updated on May 3, 2018, children with their own income over \$750/month will lose their services. Parents' income will still be excluded.**
- 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 by Saturday, May 12th.** Already contacted the Chairperson and members? Contact them again!

### SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## 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 and children 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.

## Advocacy Update

Thanks to all who attended Public Testimony Day in Senate Finance on Monday, May 7th. A special thanks to Robert Paddy, Jamie Duplechine, April Dunn, Steven Nguyen, Jeanette Plourde and Kathryn Hart for representing our group with their compelling testimonies. Click [here](#) to watch their testimonies beginning at 1:02:25.

## 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:

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

website: [www.laddc.org/LaCAN](http://www.laddc.org/LaCAN)

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twitter: [www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)



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