



Action Alert #11

Let House and Governmental Affairs Committee Hear Your Thoughts About Cameras in Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms

May 16, 2019



Let the House and Governmental Affairs Committee hear how you feel about cameras in self-contained special education classrooms!

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, May 14th, and passed an amended version of [HB283](#) by Representative Mark Wright which would require cameras in special education self-contained classrooms upon the request of parents. HB283 will next be considered by the House and Governmental Affairs Committee on **Tuesday, May 21st**.

If this issue is important to you or someone you know, **NOW** is the time to take action!

How to Take Action

Contact the representative(s) from your area and/or Chair of the House Governmental and Affairs Committee by **Monday, May 20th**. Share your personal story and how you, your family or someone you know would be impacted by having cameras in self-contained special education classrooms.

**Put on Your Yellow and
Join Us at the Capitol**



Attend Yellow Shirt Day

When: Tuesday, May 21st
9:00 AM

Where: House Committee Room 4
Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge, LA

Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the committee, but it is important for LaCAN to fill the room to show the importance of this issue to parents! Don't forget to arrive early to ensure you get a seat in the committee room. If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Can't make it for Yellow Shirt Day?

You can watch the committee meeting live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.

Additional Information

Students with disabilities, particularly students who are non-verbal, are at greater risk of abuse and do not have the communication skills to self-report this abuse. Parents want peace of mind that their children are being treated with dignity and care behind closed doors of special education classrooms. Video and audio surveillance increases student safety, protects educators from false accusations, and promotes improved training to address student challenging behavior. In fact, Louisiana schools already use cameras in classes for testing surveillance and monitoring halls.

HB283 has a long way to go before becoming law during the few weeks left of this Legislative Session. If HB283 passes House and Governmental Affairs, the bill would need to pass the full House before going through two Senate Committees (Education and Finance) and finally the full Senate. Stay tuned for more alerts from the Council and LaCAN on this issue should the bill progress through the legislature.

You can listen to the full discussion related to HB283 during the House Education Committee on May 14th, [here](#) starting at the 48:30 mark.

Advocacy Update

Over 45 LaCAN members attended the House Education Committee meeting on Tuesday in their yellow shirts and 108 members contacted committee members to convey the importance of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms. Thank you to all who traveled to Baton Rouge in their yellow. A special thanks to Stephanie Krielow, Temisha Sonnier, Amanda Morgan, Dana Duke, Dana Fullington, Lora Levigne and others for sharing their family's story. You can watch their testimonies [here](#) beginning at 1:48:23.



Contact Your Representatives and/or Chair of the House Governmental and Affairs Committee

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.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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