



Action Alert #4

Contact House Appropriations Committee &
Attend Public Testimony Day to Support DD Services



April 10, 2019

The House Appropriations Committee needs to hear from you on the importance of home and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Appropriations Committee will meet **Wednesday, April 17th**, to hear public testimony on the proposed Fiscal Year 20 (FY20) State Budget. Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the committee, but it is important for LaCAN to fill the room with yellow shirts to show support for DD services! Currently, the proposed budget ([HB 105](#)) does not include:

- Funding to continue the DD waiver rate restoration after July 1st AND to restore rates in the waivers for people served through the Office of Aging and Adult Services, Long Term Personal Care Services, EPSDT Personal Care Services, and other services for people with disabilities (For more information, check out the Council's [LaDDC News article](#));
- Funding to implement the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option ([HB199](#) has been filed by Rep. Horton directing the state to implement TEFRA);
- Additional funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program to serve all individuals on the waiting list; or
- Additional funding for the two Human Services Districts/Authorities with the lowest state funding per capita - Northwest LA & Florida Parishes

If these issues are 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 on the Appropriations Committee by **Wednesday, April 17th**.

PERSONALIZE YOUR MESSAGE

Start by sharing your story. Explain how these issues would impact you, your family, or someone you know.

- Do you have a waiver but find it difficult or have been unable to locate a service provider? Does your current provider have a difficult time finding and/or keeping Direct Support Workers?
- Are you facing financial hardship covering the costs of your child's care because you don't meet the financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid?
- Are you an adult with a significant disability who doesn't qualify for services from other programs or the services you do qualify for are insufficient to meet your needs?
- Have you or a loved one been wait listed for or cut from programs through your Human Services District/Authority? Do you understand how important these services are and feel people across the state should have equal access to these services?

Finish by telling committee members about the importance of the following to you/your family:

- Rate restoration to 2008 levels
- Implementation of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option
- Serving all individuals on the waiting list for the state personal assistance services (SPAS) program
- Equitable funding for the two Human Services Districts/Authorities with the lowest per capita budget (Northwest LA and Florida Parishes)

Put on Your Yellow and Join Us at the Capitol



Attend Public Testimony Day

When: Wednesday, April 17th **Tentatively Scheduled for 9 AM**

Where: House Committee Room 5
Louisiana State Capitol - Baton Rouge, LA

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](#).

Advocacy Update

Thirty-two (32) LaCAN members attended the House Appropriations Committee meeting Tuesday, April 9th, as the LA Department of Health's budget was discussed. Thanks to all who traveled to the Capitol in their yellow to show support for disability services. Your presence truly made an impact!

[Click here to take action today!](#)

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: [facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)



**Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council**

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