



Action Alert #5 Contact House Health and Welfare & Attend Yellow Shirt Day to Support TEFRA

April 22, 2019



The House Health and Welfare Committee needs to hear from you on the importance of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option.

The House Health and Welfare Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 24th, to discuss [HB199](#) which directs the state to implement TEFRA in Fiscal Year 20 (FY20). Members are encouraged to [contact](#) members of the committee and attend the meeting in their yellow shirts to let legislators know just how impactful the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option would be for children with developmental disabilities and their families.

How to Take Action:

1. [Contact Representatives](#)

Contact the representative(s) from your area on the House Health and Welfare Committee by **Wednesday, April 24th**. Share your personal story and let them know how the implementation of TEFRA would impact you, your family or someone you know. **Finish by telling committee members how important the implementation of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option would be.**

2. [Attend Yellow Shirt Day](#)

When: Wednesday, April 24th @ 9:00 AM

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

Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the Committee. 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](#).



Background Information:

TEFRA is a Medicaid state plan option that allows states to provide Medicaid coverage for children with developmental disabilities, regardless of their parents' income, if the child meets the state's definition of institutional level of care. Currently, children with a developmental disability *living at home* do not have access to Medicaid unless they have a waiver or their parents meet the Medicaid income requirement.

Medicaid coverage would help meet the medical needs of children with developmental disabilities, postponing or alleviating the need for more comprehensive waiver services. Many of the children in Louisiana eligible for TEFRA have private insurance, but their families still face financial struggles covering the cost of deductibles, co-pays and necessary treatments and services not covered by their insurance.

Implementing TEFRA would provide many families financial relief at minimal cost to the state because Medicaid would be a secondary payer for those with private insurance.

Advocacy Update:

Fifty-five LaCAN members attended House Appropriations Committee Yellow Shirt Day on Wednesday, April 17th to show support for funding home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities. Ten members provided testimony before the committee on the importance of rate restoration for providers, implementing TEFRA, serving all individuals on the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program's waiting list, and the two Human Services Districts/Authorities with the lowest state funding per capita (Northwest LA & Florida Parishes).

Click [here](#) to watch the video. Testimonies begin at 1:14:37.

Thanks to all who traveled to the Capitol in their yellow to show support for disability services. A special thanks to April Dunn, Jamie Duplechine, Amy Donarski, Lorene Phillips, Kelli Inabnet, Rebecca Fruge, Jamie Hattier, Christy Paulsell, Rocky Fuselier, and Robert Paddy for representing our group with their compelling testimonies.

Save the Date for May 1st Yellow Shirt Day:

Providers and other advocacy groups are hosting Disability Services Day on May 1st at the Capitol. LaCAN advocates are encouraged to attend in your yellow LaCAN shirts to demonstrate our collaborative advocacy efforts and send a strong message to legislators on the need to Restore the Rates! More details to follow.

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

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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[Contact Your Representatives!](#)