



## Action Alert #6

### Contact Appropriations to Support TEFRA

April 25, 2019



**The House Committee on Appropriations needs to hear from you about the importance of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option.**

Advocates are one step closer to seeing TEFRA made available to children with developmental disabilities in Louisiana. The House Health and Welfare Committee met on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, to discuss [HB199](#) which directs the state to implement TEFRA. The bill passed the committee unanimously and will now go to the House Committee on Appropriations to discuss the state general funds needed to implement TEFRA.

## How to Take Action

### **Contact Committee Members**

Contact the representative(s) from your area on the House Committee on Appropriations. Share with them your personal story and tell them how the implementation of TEFRA would impact you, your family or someone you know.

## 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.

Funding and 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

Twenty-three LaCAN members attended the House Health & Welfare meeting on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, to show support for the implementation of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option. Thanks to all who traveled to the Capitol in their yellow shirts and those who were watching from home to show support for TEFRA. A special thanks to Rebecca Fruge and Kellie Luke who represented LaCAN with their testimonies and to Lorene Phillips and Jennifer Coates who planned to testify but had to leave before the bill was heard late in the day.

If you missed it, their testimonies can be watched [here](#) beginning at 17:50.

## Save the Date - May 1<sup>st</sup> - Yellow Shirt Day

Providers and other advocacy groups are hosting Disability Services Day on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Capitol from 10 AM - 4 PM. 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!

Also, [SCR 24](#) will be read on the Senate Floor that day expressing condolences on the passing of former LaCAN Leader Duane Ebarb. We hope to have plenty of yellow shirts in the Senate Chambers when the Senate Concurrent Resolution is read!

## 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](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

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

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