



## Action Alert #7

### Let House Appropriations Hear the Importance of Funding DD Services

May 2, 2019



**Don't Wait. The House Appropriations Committee needs to hear from you!**

The Appropriations Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**, to vote on the Fiscal Year 20 (FY20) budget ([HB105](#)) and **Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** to discuss [HB199](#) which directs the state to implement the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option. LaCAN members are encouraged to contact committee members to communicate the need for funding the rate restoration, TEFRA and other services for people with disabilities listed below.

### How to Take Action

[Contact the representative\(s\)](#) from your area on the House Appropriations Committee **by Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Share your personal story and how you, your family or someone you know have been or would be impacted by any of the issues below.

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

- Funding to continue the DD waiver rate restoration after July 1<sup>st</sup> 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;
- Funding to implement the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option;
- 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.

The proposed budget ([HB105](#)) in its current form does not include funding for the services listed above, HOWEVER, there is a drafted [amendment](#) members are expected to consider which includes a partial rate restoration. Several legislators have mentioned additional amendments are expected.

## Additional Information

**TEFRA UPDATE:** TEFRA is a Medicaid state plan option that allows states to provide Medicaid coverage for children with developmental disabilities living at home, regardless of their parents' income, if the child meets the state's definition of institutional level of care. Due to the passionate advocacy of LaCAN members, support for TEFRA is growing in the legislature. If [HB199](#) passes the legislature and becomes law, advocates should be aware there will be a delay in the availability of TEFRA. Before implementation, the state must submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. According to HB199, this amendment must be submitted by January 1, 2020. HB199 also directs the LA Department of Health to promulgate rules necessary to implement TEFRA. CMS approval and promulgating rules can take many months. The [fiscal note](#) prepared for HB199 includes only administrative costs in FY20 with the cost of services beginning in FY21.

### Want to attend committee meetings or watch online?

The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in House Committee Room 5 on Monday at 9:00 AM and Tuesday upon adjournment of the full House (which isn't expected to convene until 2:00 PM). Advocates interested in attending either meeting are encouraged to monitor the [legislature's website](#) to view updated committee schedules. You can also watch the live broadcast by clicking on the camera icon when the meeting is in progress.

Do you need help making contact with your legislator(s) or want to become more involved in LaCAN activities? Contact your regional [LaCAN Leader](#) today!

## Advocacy Update

Forty-eight LaCAN members attended Disability Services Day in Baton Rouge on May 1<sup>st</sup> to send a message to legislators about the need to Restore the Rates. Thanks to all who traveled to the Capitol and participated in this collaborative advocacy effort with provider and other advocacy groups. Advocacy works!

## [CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 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](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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