



Action Alert #9

Let House Education Hear Your Thoughts about Cameras in Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms

May 9, 2019



Let the House Committee on Education hear how you feel about cameras in self-contained special education classrooms!

The Education Committee is scheduled to meet on **Tuesday, May 14th**, to vote on [HB283](#) by Representative Mark Wright which would require cameras in school classrooms. Rep. Wright has indicated he intends to amend the bill requiring cameras only in special education self-contained classrooms upon the request of parents.

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 on the House Education Committee and the Committee Chair](#) by **Monday, May 13th**. 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.



Attend Yellow Shirt Day

When: Tuesday, May 14th at 9:30am
Where: House Committee Room 1
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 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.

There have been concerns noted for HB283 in its current form, particularly the high costs associated with its implementation. Rep. Wright plans to address this concern by amending the bill to limit the requirement of cameras to special education self-contained classrooms upon requests of the parent(s) and reduce the length of time the video would be archived from one year to one month. This amendment should reduce the fiscal note significantly.

With half of the legislative session complete, HB283 has a long way to go before becoming law. If it passes House Education, the bill would need to pass House Appropriations and the full House before completing the same process on the Senate side. Stay tuned for more alerts from the Council and LaCAN on this issue should the bill progress through the legislature.

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
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