



UPDATE Action Alert #12

Senate Finance Still Needs to Hear From You on the Importance of Funding DD Services!

May 24, 2019



There's still time to let Senate Finance hear why funding DD services is important to you!

The Senate Finance Committee met on Friday, May 24th, to hear public testimony on the state's budget bill [\(HB105\)](#). The committee is expected to vote on the budget Monday, May 27th. If you have not reached out to the Senator(s) from your area on the committee and/or the Chair, NOW is the time!

The House added provisions that tied the hands of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), while also adding line-item obligations without additional funding. LDH has testified before Senate Finance that HB105, in its current form, is **\$44 million in state general funds short of what is needed to:**

- Fund the rate restoration;
- Implement TEFRA; and
- Maintain current services.

If Senate Finance does not provide additional funding to LDH and remove the restriction related to the Public Private Partnerships in HB105, **LDH officials testified that cuts may have to be made to current services for people with developmental disabilities and/or TEFRA will not be funded.**

Two issues important to the disability community were also left out of the House's version of HB105:

- Additional funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program to serve all individuals on the waiting list; and
- Additional funding for the two Human Services Districts/Authorities with the lowest state funding per capita - Northwest LA & Florida Parishes.

If any or all of these issues are important to you or someone you know, [share your thoughts with Senate Finance today!](#)

How to Take Action

[Contact the senator\(s\) from your area on the Senate Finance Committee and the Chair](#) by Sunday, May 26th. Share your personal story and why the issues below are important to you, your family or someone you know:

- Rate restoration for waiver providers to 2008 levels;
- Implementation of the TEFRA Medicaid State Plan Option;
- NO cuts to current services for people with developmental disabilities;
- Serving people on the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) waiting list;
- Equitable funding for the two Human Services Districts/Authorities with the lowest state funding per capita - Northwest LA & Florida Parishes

Need help getting involved?

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 LaCAN members attended Public Testimony Day in Senate Finance on May 24th 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, maintaining current services, 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).

A special thanks to April Dunn, Jamie Duplechine, Kelli Inabnet, Rebecca Fruge, Kathryn Smitherman, April Montgomery, Jamie Hattier, Christy Paulsell, Vivienne Webb, and Robert Paddy for representing our group with their compelling testimonies.

[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

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