LaDDC News

Governor Signs TEFRA Bill in Ceremony

September 4, 2019

Yesterday was a day of celebration as disability advocates and public officials witnessed Governor John Bel Edwards sign Act 421 by Representatives Dodie Horton and Dustin Miller in Lafayette. This law requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to begin a program to provide health care services via the state's Medicaid program to children in the TEFRA population no later June 1, 2020, pending CMS (federal Medicaid agency) approval. The purpose of TEFRA is to provide Medicaid coverage to children with disabilities, regardless of their parents' income.

This program will provide much needed relief to families who often face extraordinary expenses in caring for their children with disabilities at home, and are currently ineligible for Medicaid due to their income.

The Council and parents have advocated for the implementation of TEFRA numerous times over the past 28 years, and while support, and even funding, were provided by the legislature several times in the past, both of these were withdrawn at the eleventh hour. After another unsuccessful attempt last year, 2019 would prove to be different as the legislation sailed through both chambers of the legislature unopposed.

Many thanks to all who advocated for TEFRA, especially those who shared their personal stories in one-on-one visits with legislators and in testimony at the Capitol. And many thanks to the policymakers who listened and made this day a reality for families in Louisiana.

Contact Us

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