



Action Alert #2
House Health and Welfare Committee to Hear Two Issues:
Dental Coverage for Adults with Disabilities &
Continuing Certain COVID-19 Waiver Exceptions

April 23, 2021



Two important issues will be heard in the House Health & Welfare Committee!

<p>Issue One: Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD</p> <p>Tuesday, April 27th House Health & Welfare meets at 9 AM to discuss HB172 by Rep. Butler.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2019, the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) has met monthly to discuss the lack of adequate dental care available to adults with I/DD. • While Medicaid does offer limited dental services, those options are insufficient to meet the needs of individuals especially those who require anesthesia or IV sedation. • HB172 would begin to address this issue by requiring the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to ensure Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental care is provided to adults who are enrolled in any Medicaid waiver program for persons with I/DD. • For more information, check out the Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD and their Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic. <p>Take action by Monday, April 26th</p>	<p>Issue Two: Continuing Certain COVID-19 Exceptions</p> <p>Wednesday, April 28th House Health & Welfare meets at 9 AM to discuss HB204 by Rep. Turner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last March, LDH took steps to mitigate COVID-19 risk to individuals and service providers by seeking emergency exceptions to rules for Home- and Community-Based Waivers for people with I/DD. • HB204 would allow certain emergency COVID-19 exceptions in the Medicaid Waiver and Long-Term Personal Care Services programs to continue permanently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allow for direct service workers (DSW) to live in the same home as the individual they support ○ Prohibit LDH from limiting the number of individual and family support service hours a DSW may work in a 24-hour period ○ Allow for remote quarterly visits by providers and support coordinators, if requested by the individual receiving services <p>Take action by Tuesday, April 27th</p>
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If one or both of these issues are important to you or someone you know, take action **NOW!**

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how ensuring adult dental coverage in the I/DD waiver programs (issue one) and/or continuing the COVID-19 exceptions listed above (issue two) would affect you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the House Health & Welfare Committee by Monday, April 26th for HB172 (dental) and Tuesday, April 27th for HB204 (COVID-19 exceptions)! Find your member of the House Health & Welfare Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** h-hw@legis.la.gov your public comments about each issue.
 - For HB172, only statements submitted by Monday, April 26th, by 11:59 AM will be included in the record for this committee meeting.
 - For HB204, only statements submitted by Tuesday, April 27th, by 11:59 AM will be included in the record for this committee meeting.

As the Council and LaCAN continue to practice COVID-19 mitigation efforts, we will not hold official Yellow Shirt Days in-person at this time and encourage everyone to advocate safely.

Get Involved Virtually

- Watch committee meetings live from the [legislature's website](#). When the meeting is in progress, click the camera icon to access the broadcast.
- Host committee watch parties on social media and/or post a video sharing your personal story
 - Tag your friends, representatives, senators, and policymakers
 - Use hashtags #LaDDC, #lalege, #LaCAN
- Email, tweet, message, etc. members of the committee before and during the committee meeting and share how the issues above will impact you/your loved ones

Tips & Tools for Advocacy

Looking for tips and tools to help you in your advocacy? Check out the Council's [Advocacy 101](#) page. You can also find tips for:

- [Writing/emailing your legislators](#)
- [Calling your legislators](#)
- [Writing your story](#)

Confirm Your Action

- Email your [LaCAN Leader](#) after you take action
- Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how effective we are reaching you with important information and engaging members across our state in advocacy for systems change.

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

facebook: www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil

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Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the House Health & Welfare Committee!

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Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

