



Action Alert #10 Let Senate Health & Welfare Know the Importance of Continuing Certain COVID-19 Waiver Exceptions!

May 18, 2021



The House met on Wednesday, May 5th, and passed [HB204](#). The bill now heads to Senate Health & Welfare for discussion.

Wednesday, May 19th Senate Health & Welfare meets at 9 AM to discuss [HB204](#) by Representative Turner which would allow for certain emergency COVID-19 exceptions to continue ([Agenda](#))

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affected many individuals with disabilities, their families, providers and support coordination agencies. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) took steps to mitigate the risk to individuals and service providers by seeking emergency exceptions to current rules for Home- and Community-Based Waivers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HB204 would allow certain emergency COVID-19 exceptions in the Medicaid Waiver and Long Term Personal Care Services programs to continue permanently. Specifically, HB204, if passed, would:

- Allow for direct service workers (DSW) to live in the same home as the individual they support and/or allow legally responsible family members to serve as DSWs
- Not limit the number of individual and family support service hours a DSW may work in a 24-hour period should the scheduled DSW become unavailable or the person receiving services is uncomfortable with multiple people in their home
- Allow for remote quarterly visits by providers, case managers and support coordinators if requested by the individual receiving services

If this issue is important to you or someone you know, **NOW** is the time to take action!

How to Take Action

Share your personal story and explain how the issues above affect you, your family, or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee by Wednesday, May 19th! Find your member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** lewisc@legis.la.gov your public comments about the issue above:
 - Only statements emailed to the address above and received at least *3 hours prior to the meeting* will be included in the record for this committee meeting.
 - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and bill number (HB204).

As the Council and LaCAN continue to practice mitigation efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, 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 Senate Health & Welfare Committee!

All Regions	Committee Chair	
Fred Mills	millsf@legis.la.gov	(337) 365-8484
Region 1	New Orleans Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 2	Baton Rouge Area	
Regina Barrow (Vice-Chair)	barrowr@legis.la.gov	(225) 359-9400
J. Rogers Pope	popper@legis.la.gov	(225) 667-3588
Region 3	Houma/Thibodaux Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 4	Lafayette Area	
Gerald Boudreax	boudreauxg@legis.la.gov	(337) 267-7520
Bob Hensgens	sen26@legis.la.gov	(337) 740-6425
Fred Mills (Chair)	millsf@legis.la.gov	(337) 365-8484
Region 5	Lake Charles Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 6	Alexandria Area	
Jay Luneau	luneauj@legis.la.gov	(318) 484-2288
Region 7	Shreveport Area	
Jay Luneau	luneauj@legis.la.gov	(318) 484-2288
Region 8	Monroe Area	
Jay Luneau	luneauj@legis.la.gov	(318) 484-2288
Region 9	Hammond/Northshore Area	
Patrick McMath	sen11@legis.la.gov	(985) 900-6278
Beth Mizell	mizellb@legis.la.gov	(985) 839-3936
J. Rogers Pope	popper@legis.la.gov	(225) 667-3588
Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		

Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

