



## Action Alert #14

### Senate Health & Welfare to Discuss Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD!

May 25, 2021



Let Senate Health and Welfare know the importance of ensuring adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to comprehensive dental care!

**Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** Senate Health & Welfare meets at 9 AM to discuss [HB172](#) by Representative Butler ([agenda](#))

Since 2019, the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) has worked tirelessly to come up with recommendations to address 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. The Taskforce released a formal report in December 2020 recommending extensive actions be taken:

- [Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD](#)
- [Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic](#)

If passed, HB172 would begin to address this issue by requiring the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to ensure Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental care be provided to adults who are enrolled in any Medicaid waiver program for persons with I/DD. Coverage would be dependent on approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and appropriations from the legislature.

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 ensuring adult dental coverage in the I/DD waiver programs would affect you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee before they meet on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>! Find your member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee at the end of this alert.

2. **Email** [lewisc@legis.la.gov](mailto:lewisc@legis.la.gov) your public comments about the budget:
- 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 (HB172).

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](mailto:info@laddc.org)

website: [www.lacanadvocates.org](http://www.lacanadvocates.org)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LaDDCouncil)

twitter: [www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil)

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Find your member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee!

<b>All Regions</b>	<b>Committee Chair</b>	
Fred Mills	<a href="mailto:millsf@legis.la.gov">millsf@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 365-8484
<b>Region 1</b>	<b>New Orleans Area</b>	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Baton Rouge Area</b>	
Regina Barrow (Vice-Chair)	<a href="mailto:barrowr@legis.la.gov">barrowr@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 359-9400
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<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Houma/Thibodaux Area</b>	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Lafayette Area</b>	
Gerald Boudreax	<a href="mailto:boudreauxg@legis.la.gov">boudreauxg@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 267-7520
Bob Hensgens	<a href="mailto:sen26@legis.la.gov">sen26@legis.la.gov</a>	(337) 740-6425
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Chairman Only (see top of list)		
<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Alexandria Area</b>	
Jay Luneau	<a href="mailto:luneauj@legis.la.gov">luneauj@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 484-2288
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J. Rogers Pope	<a href="mailto:popper@legis.la.gov">popper@legis.la.gov</a>	(225) 667-3588
<b>Region 10</b>	<b>Jefferson/New Orleans Area</b>	
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