



# Action Alert #8 Senate Finance to Hear Two Issues: Cameras in Special Education Classrooms & Public Testimony on the Budget

May 13, 2021

Two important issues being heard in Senate Finance next week!

**Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** Senate Finance meets at 9:30 AM in Room A-B to consider [SB86](#) and hear public testimony on [HB1](#) ([Agenda](#))



### Issue One: Requiring Cameras in Special Education Classrooms Upon Request

- Senate Education passed an amended version of [SB86](#) by Senator Foil on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- If passed, SB86 would require cameras to be installed in self-contained special education classrooms upon request.
- Students with disabilities, particularly students who are non-verbal, are at greater risk of abuse and do not have the communication skills to self-report this abuse.
- Parents want peace of mind that their children are treated with dignity and care behind closed doors of special education classrooms.
- Video and audio surveillance increases student safety, protects educators from false accusations, and promotes improved training to address challenging student behavior.
- Click here for more information about [requiring cameras in special education classrooms upon request](#)



### Issue Two: Public Testimony Being Heard on the State's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget (Begins July 1)

- The House passed an amended budget bill ([HB1](#)) on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The good news is, in its current form, the budget *does* include the following:
  - Approximately \$16.3 million in state general fund (SGF) to increase HCBS rates
  - Implementation costs of dental coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities should [HB172](#) be enacted into law
  - 500 additional Community Choices Waiver slots for seniors and those with adult onset disabilities
- Unfortunately, HB1 *does not* include the following:
  - [Additional \\$500,000 in SGF for the Families Helping Families \(FHF\) Regional Resource Centers](#)
  - [Full \\$27.9 million SGF needed to increase HCBS rates by \\$2.00 for those services provided by DSWs and a minimum starting pay requirement of at least \\$8.65 per hour for DSWs](#)

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 requiring cameras in self-contained special education classrooms (issue one) and/or additional funding for FHF Centers and increased home- and community-based service (HCBS) rates (issue two) would affect you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee by Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>! Find your member of the Senate Finance Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** [sfnce@legis.la.gov](mailto:sfnce@legis.la.gov) your public comments about one or both of the issues 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 (SB86 - Cameras in Special Education Classrooms / HB1 - Funding for Disability Services and Resources).

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](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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Louisiana Developmental  
Disabilities Council

Find your member of the Senate Finance Committee!

<b>All Regions</b>	<b>Committee Chair</b>	
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Glen Womack	<a href="mailto:sen32@legis.la.gov">sen32@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 744-0005
<b>Region 7</b>	<b>Shreveport Area</b>	
Gregory Tarver	<a href="mailto:tarverg@legis.la.gov">tarverg@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 227-1499
<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Monroe Area</b>	
Glen Womack	<a href="mailto:sen32@legis.la.gov">sen32@legis.la.gov</a>	(318) 744-0005
<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Hammond/Northshore Area</b>	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
<b>Region 10</b>	<b>Jefferson/New Orleans Area</b>	
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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

