



## Action Alert #9

### Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD is Headed to the House Floor Your State Representative Needs to Hear From You

May 17, 2021



HB172 by Representative Butler made its way out of committee and is now headed to the House Floor. Let your State Representative know how important ensuring comprehensive dental coverage for adults with developmental disabilities is to you!

**Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** House Floor meets to discuss [HB172](#) by Representative Butler

The Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) released a formal report in December 2020 highlighting the lack of adequate dental care available to adults with I/DD and recommended 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.

**NOW** is the time to contact your State Representative if this issue is important to you!

#### 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** your State Representative before they meet on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>!
  - a. Click [here](#) for State Representative's full contact information.
  - b. Don't know your State Representative? Click [here](#) and enter your home address. The first person listed will be your State Representative.

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)

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