



Action Alert #3

Senate Education Needs to Hear from You About Cameras in Special Education Classrooms!

March 22, 2022

**Senate
Committee**

**Senate
Floor**

**House
Committee**

**House
Floor**

Governor

Let members of Senate Education know how you feel about addressing oversight and accountability of cameras in special education classrooms!

Wednesday, March 23rd Senate Education meets at 1 PM to discuss Senator Foil's bill ([SB45](#)) which would require all public school governing authorities to adopt policies relative to cameras in self-contained special education classrooms by December 31, 2022. ([Agenda](#))

[Act 456 of 2021](#) requires governing authorities of public and charter schools to adopt policies relative to the installation and operation of cameras in special education classrooms upon request. This issue received unanimous support from both the state House and Senate. Unfortunately, many districts have failed to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so. Oversight and accountability is needed to ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the law.

Cameras play an important role in ensuring the safety of students with disabilities and educators. 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. Video and audio surveillance not only increases student safety but also protects educators from false accusations and promotes improved training to address students' challenging behaviors.

If [addressing oversight and accountability regarding cameras in special education classrooms](#) 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 issue above has affected you, your family or someone you know.

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the Senate Education Committee *before* the committee meets on Wednesday, March 23rd! Find your member of the Senate Education Committee at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** seduc@legis.la.gov your public comments about cameras in classrooms:

- Only statements emailed to the address above and *received before 9 AM Wednesday, March 23rd*, 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 (SB45).

3. Attend Yellow Shirt Day!

- WHEN: Wednesday, March 23rd, at 1 PM
- WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - John J. Hainkel Room

Several LaCAN members will represent our group by testifying before the committee, but it is important for LaCAN to fill the room with yellow shirts to show the importance of this issue! Don't forget to arrive early to ensure you get a seat in the committee room. If you plan to attend, need a yellow shirt or want to find out about carpooling options, contact your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Get Involved Virtually!

If you can't make it to Yellow Shirt Day, that's okay! There are other ways to get involved!

- 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 Education Committee!

All Regions	Committee Chair	
Cleo Fields	sen14@legis.la.gov / cfields@legis.la.gov	(225) 342-9514
Region 1	New Orleans Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 2	Baton Rouge Area	
Cleo Fields (Chair)	sen14@legis.la.gov / cfields@legis.la.gov	(225) 342-9514
Mack "Bodi" White Jr.	whitem@legis.la.gov	(225) 272-1324
Region 3	Houma/Thibodaux Area	
Chairman Only (see top of list)		
Region 4	Lafayette Area	
Mark Abraham	abrahamm@legis.la.gov	(337) 475-3016
Region 5	Lake Charles Area	
Mark Abraham	abrahamm@legis.la.gov	(337) 475-3016
Region 6	Alexandria Area	
Katrina Jackson (Vice-Chair)	jacksonk@legis.la.gov	(318) 343-2877
Region 7	Shreveport Area	
Robert Mills	sen36@legis.la.gov	(318) 371-5200
Region 8	Monroe Area	
Katrina Jackson (Vice-Chair)	jacksonk@legis.la.gov	(318) 343-2877
Region 9	Hammond/Northshore Area	
Beth Mizell	mizellb@legis.la.gov	(985) 839-3936
Region 10	Jefferson/New Orleans Area	
Kirk Talbot	talbotk@legis.la.gov	(504) 736-7299

Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

