



Action Alert #5 Public Testimony in Appropriations on April 5th

March 31, 2022



House Appropriations Tuesday, April 5th
House Appropriations meets this Tuesday at 9:30 AM to hear public testimony on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget ([HB1](#)) which will begin July 1st. Click [here](#) for agenda.

What's Included in the Budget	What's Not Included in the Budget
<p>Funding for Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 450 of 2021 by Representative Butler ensures Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental care be provided to all adults enrolled in any Medicaid waiver program for persons with I/DD. • However, funding is needed (\$5.3 million in state general fund) to ensure these services are provided to those that need it most! • For more information, check out the Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD and their Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic. 	<p>Additional Funding for Families Helping Families Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year, the legislature appropriated an <i>additional</i> \$500,000 in state general fund to the DD Council's budget for the sole purpose of doubling the funding for the nine FHF Centers the Council contracts with. • Unfortunately, despite the Council's request, this additional funding was not included in the proposed FY23 budget. <p>Funding for Cameras in Special Education Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing authorities of public and charter schools are required to adopt policies relative to the installation and operation of cameras in special education classrooms upon request (Act 456 of 2021). • Unfortunately, many districts have sighted a lack of funding for their failure to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so.

How to Take Action

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

1. **Email or call** the Chair and members of the House Appropriations Committee *before* the committee meets Tuesday, April 5th! Find your committee member(s) at the end of this alert.
2. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
 - WHEN: Tuesday, April 5th, at 9:30 AM
 - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - House Committee Room 5

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 or just respond to this email.
- 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 House Appropriations Committee!

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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

