



# Action Alert #10

## Public Testimony in Senate Finance on May 2nd

April 29, 2022



### Senate Finance - Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

The proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget ([HB1](#)), set to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, has made its way through the House and is headed for the Senate. First stop is Senate Finance which is scheduled to meet this Monday at 9 AM to hear public testimony. Click [here](#) for the agenda.

What's Included in the Budget	What's Not Included in the Budget
<p><a href="#">Funding for Comprehensive Dental Coverage for Adults with I/DD</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Act 450 of 2021</a> 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.</li> <li>• \$5.3 million in state general fund is currently included in the proposed FY23 budget to ensure these services are provided to those that need it most!</li> <li>• For more information, check out the <a href="#">Formal Report by the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD</a> and their <a href="#">Adults with I/DD Dental Graphic</a>.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Additional Funding for Families Helping Families Centers</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, the legislature appropriated an <i>additional</i> \$500,000 in state general fund to</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Funding for Cameras in Special Education Classrooms</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governing authorities of public and charter schools are required to adopt policies relative to the installation and operation of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms upon request (<a href="#">Act 456 of 2021</a>).</li> <li>• Unfortunately, many school districts have cited a "lack of funding" for their failure to develop and implement any such policy despite the law requiring them to do so.</li> <li>• In House Appropriations, Chairman Zeringue stated the committee did not include the \$8 million needed to fund the installation of cameras in special education classrooms in its amendments because the committee felt the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) <i>should</i> be able to identify the funding needed in its current budget. However, no language was added to the budget to instruct LDOE to identify necessary funds.</li> </ul>

<p>the DD Council's budget for the sole purpose of doubling the funding for the nine FHF Centers the Council contracts with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortunately, this additional funding was amended into the proposed FY23 budget by House Appropriations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During this same committee meeting, an amendment was passed that would appropriate \$8 million to fund cameras in special education classrooms <i>should</i> the Louisiana Department of Health return funds to the state treasury as a result of increased federal funds from the Enhanced FMAP. Unfortunately, this is not a guaranteed source of funding.</li> </ul>
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## How to Take Action

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

1. **Email or call** the Chair *and* members of the Senate Finance Committee *before* the committee meets Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>! Find your committee member(s) at the end of this alert.
2. **Email** [sfnce@legis.la.gov](mailto:sfnce@legis.la.gov) your public comments and testimony:
  - Only statements emailed to the address above and *received before 5 AM Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>*, will be included in the record for this committee meeting and shared with all committee members.
  - With your comments, please ensure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, bill number (HB1) and a thank you to members for prioritizing the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)!
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
  - WHEN: Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9 AM
  - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - Senate Committee Room A-B

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](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!

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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

# Louisiana Regions

