



Action Alert #7

Opportunities for Postsecondary Inclusive Education Headed to Senate Finance!

April 14, 2022



Let members of Senate Finance know the importance of postsecondary inclusive education opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)!

Monday, April 18th

Senate Finance meets at 1 PM to discuss Senator Boudreaux's bill ([SB192](#)) which would create a fund for the purpose of funding approved inclusive postsecondary programs for students with I/DD at each public postsecondary education institution in the state. ([Agenda](#))

The Louisiana Alliance of Postsecondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE) was formed in 2019 to increase postsecondary inclusive opportunities for individuals with I/DD in Louisiana. Currently, our state has 64 postsecondary institutions with only six offering an inclusive higher education opportunity for students. Unfortunately, many individuals are turned away simply because there are not enough slots available to accept those who qualify. Other postsecondary institutions have expressed interest in starting programs, but start-up funding has been a major concern.

Our state offers many programs and scholarships for students without disabilities to attend postsecondary schooling, but it is time we address the postsecondary needs of individuals with I/DD. These programs prepare students with I/DD to live independently while enjoying a full college experience alongside their peers without disabilities. In fact, 75% of the individuals who completed one of the current programs obtained and maintained competitive employment!

If [expanding postsecondary inclusive opportunities for individuals with I/DD throughout our state](#) 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 Finance Committee *before* the committee meets on Monday, April 18th! Find your member of the Senate Finance Committee at the end of this alert.

2. **Email** sfnce@legis.la.gov your public comments about postsecondary inclusive education opportunities:
 - Only statements emailed to the address above and *received before 9 AM Monday, April 18th*, 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 (SB192) and a thank you to members for prioritizing the postsecondary needs of students with I/DD!
3. **Attend Yellow Shirt Day!**
 - WHEN: Monday, April 18th, at 1 PM
 - WHERE: Louisiana State Capitol - Senate Side / Room A-B

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](#). Your LaCAN Leader can also discuss with you options for sharing your testimony while at the Capitol!

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 Finance Committee!

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Committee Members are sorted by region. Find your region!

Louisiana Regions

