

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

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**Action Alert - Contact Senate Finance Committee Members**

**June 2, 2010**

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-- Amendment 232 to HB 1 may impact availability of funds for Home and Community Based Services.

-- Contact the Chairman and Region 2 Senate Finance Committee Members

-- Confirm your Action

-- Sample Letter - This is only a sample - you are encouraged to personalize

-- Background Information

-- Any Questions?

1. Contact Senate Finance members in your region to let them know you oppose any action that slows down the Department of Health and Hospital's plan to downsize its Developmental Centers.
2. A Sample letter is included below that you should personalize.
3. Confirm your action by replying to this email

**Amendment 232 to HB 1 may impact availability of funds for Home and Community Based Services.**

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- Amendment 232 to HB1 would not allow any resident of Pinecrest Developmental Center to transition into the community until DHH creates a Commission to review their case. DHH already has a process to review cases of individuals transitioning out of Developmental Centers.
  - Delays in downsizing Developmental Centers will reduce cost savings which can be used to serve more people on the waiver waiting list.

**Contact the Chairman and Senate Finance Committee Members**

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[Senator Michael J. "Mike" Michot](#) (Chairman), P.O. Box 80372, Lafayette, LA 70598, Phone: (337) 262-1332, Fax: (337) 237-1185, Email: [lasen23@legis.state.la.us](mailto:lasen23@legis.state.la.us)

[Click here to see the Finance Committee Members](#)

**Confirm your Action**

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Reply to this email to let us know you took action.

**Sample Letter - This is only a sample - you are encouraged to personalize**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

I oppose any delay in the Department of Health and Hospital's (DHH) plan in downsizing its Developmental Centers. It has been reported by DHH officials that approximately 200 individuals living in Developmental Centers have the lowest levels of needs. Amendment 232 to HB1 would prohibit DHH from transferring any resident of Pinecrest Developmental Center into a community setting without first creating a Commission to review that resident's status and ability to function in a new setting. There is already a State Office Review Committee that performs this function.

This amendment would prevent progress in converting Louisiana's system supporting people with developmental disabilities. Louisiana's plan to downsize these facilities is reflective of best practice and will allow savings to be realized now and in years to come. These cost savings could provide supports and services to some of the people waiting up to eight years for waiver services. Please do not allow delays to Louisiana downsizing its Developmental Centers.

Sincerely

**Background Information**

DHH has developed plans to transition individuals with low level needs residing in developmental centers (supports and services centers) into home and community based services. Information providing the rationale behind providing independence and integration for persons with developmental disabilities can be found on page 16 of the summary of Governor Jindal's FY2011 Executive Budget. Follow the link below to read this summary

<http://www.gov.state.la.us/assets/do cs/FY%2011%20Executive%20Budget% 20Summary.pdf>

[Click here](#) if you would like to read HB 1. OCDD's budget begins on page 138.

[Click here](#) to see the House Appropriations Committee Amendments to HB1. Amendment 232 is on page 34.

**Any Questions?**

If there are any questions about the information in this email contact LaCAN's Coordinator by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below.

**Contact Information**

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