

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

## **Action Alert - Public Testimony to Senate Finance Committee expected this weekend**

- Senate Finance is expected to hear Public Testimony on the Budget this Saturday or Sunday (June 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Join other LaCAN members in your yellow rally shirt to support restoration of funds to DHH
- Continue contacting members of the Senate Finance Committee
- Continue contacting your personal Senator and Representative
- Sample letter
- Additional Information
- Any Questions?

The Senate Finance Committee expects to hear public testimony on House Bill (HB) 1 this weekend. If they complete their schedule tonight and tomorrow they will hear public testimony on Saturday, June 11.

**Once the date is confirmed, an email will notify you of the exact date and time.**

LaCAN members are encouraged to attend this meeting wearing their yellow rally shirts to support restoration of funds to DHH.

In its current form, HB1, the state's budget for next year, contains drastic cuts to DHH's budget that DHH indicates will slash or eliminate home and community based services such as the Cash Subsidy program and Individual and Family Support services and result in another 7.5 percent rate cut to providers. [Click here](#) to read the affect of cuts from DHH (short version).

Call or write Senators on the Senate Finance Committee in your area and your personal Senator and Representative if you want to let them know how these cuts will affect you, your family or someone you care about.

## **Contact Information for Members on the Senate Finance Committee**

Senator Michael J. "Mike" Michot (Chairman)  
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**Sample Letter - Personalize how the cuts will impact you and your family or someone you care about**

**Dear Senator**

I am writing to urge you to restore the \$120 million dollars of state funding that was cut from the Department of Health and Hospitals' (DHH) budget. The **Individual and Family Support and Cash Subsidy Programs** through the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities are vital programs that support families of children with the most severe disabilities in the community and keep them out of more costly institutions. Programs serving adults who have successfully moved out of nursing homes and children with specialized health care needs are cost effective and crucial to maintaining their independence in the community. Please protect Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens and restore ALL of the cuts to DHH's budget.

Sincerely,

### **Additional Information**

HB1, is currently being reviewed and changes considered by the Senate Finance Committee. It is expected that the Senate will amend then pass HB1 sometime around June 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. Then the House will vote on the Senate version of the budget. If there is not agreement between the House and the Senate a joint conference committee will develop a compromised budget.

Things are going to be moving very quickly so it is very important that both your representatives and senators know how vitally important services provided through DHH are to people with developmental disabilities. It is not too early to begin contacting your representatives now since the House will get HB1 back very soon.

**The message is simple - restore all funding to DHH.**

**[Click here](#) to read DHH's latest press release on the impact of the most recent cuts.**

**[Click here](#) for a detailed report by DHH on the impact of the Appropriations Committee amendments. This does NOT include the additional \$91 Million cuts that were proposed on the House Floor on May 25<sup>th</sup>. DHH has reported those cuts would result in across the board provider rate cuts.**

#### **Any Questions?**

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

#### **Contact Information**

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