

# LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

*Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*

## Appropriations Committee Testimony

**April 29th Legislative Committee Meeting  
April 24, 2009**

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### **Public Testimony Given Yesterday**

**Thanks** to all of you who attended the House Appropriations Committee hearing yesterday where public testimony was given on House Bill 1 (HB1 - the budget). LaCAN members in yellow shirts filled half the room as individuals shared their personal stories and testimony was given about the need to fund 2,000 additional NOW slots for those on the waiting list, to restore cuts to community services, and the need to consolidate developmental centers.

**If you would like to watch the testimony yesterday go to the link below**, scroll down to April 23rd, and click on the "am session". Fast forward the video to 1:58:00 where the LaCAN members testimony begins. There is also additional testimony about DHH's budget after lunch during the committee's "pm session".

**Representative Karen Carter (New Orleans) who is also Speaker Pro Tem in the House of Representatives, shared the ACTION she will take.** She announced publicly during the meeting that **she will be offering an amendment to HB1 for the 2,000 NOW slots.** She also said **her bill calling for a tobacco tax increase (House Bill 75 Louisiana Healthier Families Act) will include dedication of funds to support the continuation funding for these slots** and other health care needs. See more about this important legislation in the next section.

[Video of Appropriations Committee Meeting](#)

### **Another Important Legislative Committee Meeting**

Representative Peterson's bill (HB75) will be heard in the House Ways and Means Committee in House Committee Room 6 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29th. **LaCAN members that live closer to Baton Rouge are encouraged to attend** this committee meeting, if possible, and **wear their yellow rally shirts.** This bill is first on the committee's agenda.

Read HB 75 on the legislative website (see link below). On the site scroll down to Bill Search and enter the bill number.

[Legislative Website](#)

**Newspaper Article About Testimony**

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Today's issue of the Baton Rouge Advocate has an article about yesterday's testimony and a picture showing LaCAN members in yellow t-shirts filling the committee room. Go to link below.

[Baton Rouge Advocate Newspaper](#)

**Another Newspaper Article About Testimony**

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The New Orleans Times Picayune also has an article about yesterday's testimony. Go to link below.

[New Orleans Times Picayune](#)

**Any Questions?**

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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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