

LOUISIANA CITIZENS FOR ACTION NOW

Advocating for Louisiana Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

Cast Your Vote Today for Waiver Funding

Must Vote by January 15th

January 8, 2009

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ACTION ALERT

1. Please vote on the waiting list crisis at the link below. Ask your family and friends to also vote. Every vote matters!
2. Click on the "vote" button. You will then need to create an account (or sign in if you already have one) for your vote to be registered. **Important Note:** Make certain your vote registers. **You must click on the number to the left of the title that says "VOTE" under it in order to have your vote actually count.** Once you have done that, it will say "VOTED". Registering on the site and entering a comment DOES NOT count as a vote! About 1/3 of our votes in the last round were lost this way!
3. Feel free to post a comment on this change, noting what state you live in to show that this is a national crisis.

VOTE TODAY! Voting will end January 15th. If you have any trouble with the link below please reply to this email letting me know and I will make sure you receive a working link.

Cast Your Vote Here

Background Information

Change in America is a citizen-driven project that aims to identify ideas and create momentum around the best ideas for how the Obama Administration and 111th Congress can turn the broad call for "change" across the country into specific policies.

The idea we are voting on was submitted by Renee Beauregard of Aurora, CO, and is as follows: "I propose that if the Medicaid waiver program were fully funded that the action would not only end decades-long waiting lists for people with developmental disabilities, but would also create small businesses and jobs because more service providers would be needed. Funding must be available in all states, portable across and within states and promote self-determination for the individual with the disability, their families and legal guardians. Furthermore, parents who have had to stay home to be caregivers could go back to work, and people with developmental disabilities would also be able to go to work

because they would have employment supports to do so. Portability of services across states and counties also should be mandated so that families can, during these difficult times, move to another state and continue to receive services if they had them before. Right now, if a family moves, they placed at the bottom of the new state's waiting list and can wait many years for services."

Status of this Change

- December 20, 2008 - The first round of voting began.
- January 1, 2009 - The first round of voting closed. The Medicaid waiver issue made it to the top 3 ideas in Health care, which was needed in order to make it to the second round.
- January 5, 2009 - The second round of voting began.
- January 15, 2009 - The second (and final!) round of voting closes.
- January 16, 2009 - Change.org will co-host an event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to announce the top 10 rated ideas and their plans for supporting the formation of a national advocacy campaign behind each idea in collaboration with their nonprofit partners. For more information go to the link below.
- January 20, 2009 - The top 10 rated ideas will be presented to the Obama Administration on Inauguration Day as the "Top 10 Ideas for America." A national campaign behind each idea will then be launched.

More Info. On Change in America's Plans

<http://www.change.org/ideas/faq>

About Ideas for Change in America

What is Ideas for Change in America?

Ideas for Change in America is a citizen-driven project that aims to identify and create momentum around the best ideas for how the Obama Administration and 111th Congress can turn the broad call for "change" across the country into specific policies.

The project was created in the wake of the 2008 Presidential Election in response to President-elect Barack Obama's call for increased civic participation in America. It is not connected to the Obama campaign or the administration.

Who's behind it?

Ideas for Change in America is a project of Change.org, an online community and media network for social issues, in partnership with more than 50 leading organizations, including MySpace, techPresident, the Sunlight Foundation, Netroots Nation, Declare Yourself, Student PIRGs, Voto Latino, HeadCount, and Change Congress.

How does it work?

From November 24 – December 31, 2008, Change.org accepted more than 7,783 submissions for ideas and over 288,694 votes from people across America. The idea submission window closed on December 31, 2008, and the top 3 rated ideas from each of

nearly 30 issue categories qualified for the second and final voting round. Final round voting runs from January 5 - January 15.

On January 16, Change.org and the Case Foundation are co-hosting an event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to announce the top 10 rated ideas and then launch a national campaign behind each idea and mobilize the collective energy of the millions of members of Change.org, MySpace, and partner organizations to ensure that each winning idea gets the full consideration of the Obama Administration and Members of Congress.

What should my idea be about?

The mission of Ideas for Change in America is to identify and advance concrete solutions to the major challenges confronting the country, and we welcome any ideas consistent with this vision. Ideas that conflict with the spirit of this mission, that look backward instead of forward, that express values without offering solutions, that offer solutions which won't receive serious consideration by either the Obama administration or the 111th Congress, that are intended to attack others, or are otherwise offensive are not eligible for the second round. We reserve the right to remove any ideas that violate these stated principles.

Does my idea have to be original?

No. While we encourage you to take an original approach, you may submit an idea originally conceived by someone else. However, we encourage you to cite original source of the idea if known, and you may not directly copy text from an idea posted by another user.

Copyright Policy

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More About our Partners

We are currently compiling a press page with overviews of each of our dozens of nonprofit partners. See an example overview for one of our lead partners, Declare Yourself, below.

Declare Yourself is a nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to empower every eligible American, 18-to-29 years old, to register, and vote in the 2008 presidential election—and beyond. Declare Yourself has pledged to continue to give young people a strong voice and exciting channels of civic participation in the years ahead. Declare Yourself's initiative drew on the power of direct youth outreach and innovative sponsorships with entities such as MySpace, MTV, Google, AOL, Yahoo! and The Ellen DeGeneres Show. Over 2.2 million young people used Declare Yourself's various on-line registration initiatives. More than four million received text reminders on their cell phones to register and vote. Over 5.1 million people viewed Declare Yourself's line-up of viral video and TV PSAs; Declare Yourself's "Only You Can Silence Yourself" print and video campaign featuring Jessica Alba and Hayden

Panettiere received more than 100 million media impressions through print outlets such as Rolling Stone, Time, Seventeen, Sports Illustrated and People. In 2003, Declare Yourself launched its initiative with The Declaration of Independence Road Trip, a nationwide multimedia exhibit and tour of Norman Lear's original copy of the Declaration.

Blog Partners

In addition to our 50 nonprofit partners, we have partnered with a number of leading blogs writing about social issues, including:

- Jack and Jill Politics
- Future Majority
- Tikun Olam
- The Campaign Silo
- Mombian
- Fair Trade Sports
- Gay Rights Watch
- Latina Lista
- Migra Matters
- Vigilante Journalist
- Patronus Analytical
- TalkLeft
- Concurring Opinions
- Fair Trade Beginners
- Join the Impact
- ImmigrationProf Blog
- The Road to the Horizon
- It's Getting Hot In Here
- Solve Climate

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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.

And, again, **if you are not able to access to Voting link above please reply to this email so I can make sure you receive a working link to cast your very important vote BEFORE voting ends of JANUARY 15TH.**

**Contact Information**

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E-mail: list@lacadvocates.org
phone: 1-800-450-8108
web: <http://www.lacadvocates.org>

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