

# LaCAN

## Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

### Information Alert - Advocacy Update

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) met on Friday, February 20th, to review and approve the Governor's plan for over \$60 Million in mid-year budget cuts. The plan included over \$13 Million in cuts to the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and a freeze on filling 772 new and/or vacant waiver slots funded during the last legislative session. (Exceptions will be made for emergencies, children aging out of Children's Choice, and transitions out of public facilities.)

Over 350 of you took action by contacting committee members to express your concerns about this plan and to seek their support in prioritizing DHH and waiver services in the state budget. Another 25 of you made the trip to Baton Rouge to attend the meeting and represent the tens of thousands on the ever-growing waiver waiting list. **Thank you for advocacy and continued efforts to educate your legislators!** It definitely made an impact on several members of the committee. Here are just a few examples:

During the meeting, Senator Dan Claitor of Baton Rouge recognized the LaCAN members in attendance and reminded fellow committee members that the discussion of waiver slots was really about people. Sen. Claitor said, "we're not freezing slots, we're freezing people and their families. I have a hard time dealing with the fact that we call them slots and that we don't treat them fairly."



Representative Ledricka Thierry of Opelousas proposed an amendment to decrease cuts to the Department of Health and Hospitals by \$2 Million in order to prevent the freezing of any waiver slots. Representative Katrina Jackson of Monroe spoke out in strong support of this amendment. Unfortunately, the amendment did not pass.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of the meeting. Sen. Claitor's comments can be heard at the 1:38:30 mark. The discussion of Rep. Thierry's amendment can be heard at the 4:25:30 mark.

Click [here](#) to read an article in the Baton Rouge advocate quoting parent and Region 4 LaCAN Leader, Darla Louviere.

**Here is contact information for the three legislators mentioned above if you would like to express your appreciation for their support.**

Sen. Dan Claitor	<a href="mailto:claitord@legis.la.gov">claitord@legis.la.gov</a>	225-342-7602
Rep. Ledricka Thierry	<a href="mailto:thierryl@legis.la.gov">thierryl@legis.la.gov</a>	337-948-0369
Rep. Katrina Jackson	<a href="mailto:jacksonk@legis.la.gov">jacksonk@legis.la.gov</a>	318-362-5123

#### Contact Us

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.

Email: [info@lacaadvocates.org](mailto:info@lacaadvocates.org)  
Phone: 1-800-450-8108  
Web: [www.lacaadvocates.org](http://www.lacaadvocates.org)

LaCAN is an initiative of the [Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council](http://LouisianaDevelopmentalDisabilitiesCouncil.org).

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