

*Trach Mommas of Louisiana  
A Non Profit Corporation*



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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

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## **Press Conference Held by Trach Mommas of Louisiana *HB1 Louisiana Budget Crisis: Enough is Enough, Time to Fix It!***

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA — Friday, May 13, 2016, 10:30am at Louisiana State Capital in the rotunda on the senate side.** Trach Mommas of Louisiana will hold a press conference regarding the Louisiana Budget Crisis. We are the Trach Mommas of Louisiana and also represent all medically fragile, technology dependent children and who receive services that are in jeopardy of being lost.

We are experts at fighting because we have helped our children fight to live every day. We were there every day of the special session and shared our stories through tears in committee meetings. In light of the proposed budget, our struggles and need for our waivers and services to keep our children alive and living at home has not been taken seriously.

We are tired of our world and lives being turned upside down with each passing of our state budget! We are used to our kids turning blue, fighting for their lives, life or death situations. Our services being taken away at the hand of Louisiana Legislatures is yet another life or death situation which can be prevented! If our support system is taken, our ability to care for our own children is severely diminished.

Not only is Louisiana not funding additional waiver slots but they are trying to eliminate existing waivers which would create a death toll of children in our state. We are not going to back down. We are not going away. We need our legislatures to **FIX IT NOW!!**

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### **ABOUT TRACH MOMMAS OF LOUISIANA (TMOL)**

Trach Mommas of Louisiana is an independent Louisiana non-profit corporation that offers emotional support and hope to families who have a child with a Tracheostomy, which we affectionately call a Trach. We make home and hospital visits when called upon. We share all that we have learned through our own experience and bring information and resources that will guide the parents through coordination of all of their child's services, therapists, nurses, and doctors. We offer 24/7 support online through social media as well as monthly meetings and staff support by telephone. We do not take the place of medical advice.

*Taking It One Breath at a Time*

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My name is Angela Lorio, I am the President & Founder of Trach Mommas of Louisiana. This is Jessica Michot Executive VP & Co-Founder. This is my son John Paul and Jessica's son Gabriel who are both on the ROW residential options waiver. We are here today for Trach Mommas of Louisiana. Today we represent all medically fragile, technology dependent children and all others who receive life sustaining services that are in jeopardy of being lost.

**We are tired of our world and lives being turned upside down with each passing of our state budget!** Our services have been targeted year after year after year. With each funding cut to DHH there is yet another life-threatening situation that can be prevented by our Legislature! If our support system is taken, our ability to care for our own children is severely diminished, our ability to work and pay taxes is diminished and our children are in jeopardy of being placed in institutions as we cannot care for them alone. **HB1 may not dictate particular cuts to waivers and services but the cut in the DHH budget will force a morally deplorable situation, taking away the life sustaining services of the most vulnerable in our state!** Where else will the money come from? There's nothing left to cut!

Our state has multiple waivers that provide critical life altering care to individuals with developmental and other disabilities. It's NOT just about the NOW waiver: there is the ROW, Children's Choice and Supports Waivers. And we are here to put a face and voice to thousands who have those waivers and can't be here to cry out for your help! John Paul and Gabriel and thousands need the Legislature to fix this and need you to tell your elected officials to save their lives by restoring all funding to DHH for all our waivers.

TOPS is an important program to our state, but at what cost? If these boys, John Paul and Gabriel and many others like them loose their waiver they may not live to be able to go to college. Between now and then if their services are taken away it will cost the state an exorbitant amount of money in increased critical care costs. It is not fiscally or morally responsible to move money from DHH, a Department that's been cut year after year after year!

Many of you have seen us testifying at Legislative hearings. Maybe some thought we would tire and go away. **But we are experts at fighting because we help our children fight to live every day. WE ARE NOT BACKING DOWN. WE WILL NOT GO AWAY. WE WILL KEEP COMING HERE AND TESTIFYING UNTIL OUR LEGISLATORS FIX IT. FIX IT NOW!!**

It is in your hands Louisiana! Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, put yourselves in our shoes and call, write or meet with your elected officials and tell them to FIX THIS NOW.

Go to [www.Legis.la.gov](http://www.Legis.la.gov) to find out who they are and their contact information.

Link to details and numbers of the current proposed budget cuts

<http://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/communication/viewcampaign/291?&uid=gogKfaguo%27&nowrap=1>

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