



May 14, 2026

**The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito**

Chair

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies

170 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Robert Aderholt**

Chair

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

272 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Tammy Baldwin**

Ranking Member

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies

141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Rosa DeLauro**

Ranking Member

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies

2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for FY 2027 Funding for Rehabilitation and Disability Research at NIDILRR and Related Programs within the Administration for Community Living**

Dear Chairs Moore Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro:

On behalf of the disability and rehabilitation research community, the undersigned individuals, organizations, and institutions ***urge you to fund the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at \$150 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027*** Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We believe that a \$150 million investment in NIDILRR is a long-overdue and necessary increase to strengthen the nation's disability and rehabilitation research infrastructure and advance outcomes for people with disabilities.

NIDILRR plays a unique and critical role within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by serving as the federal government's primary research agency focused on improving the lives of people with disabilities. Its mission—to generate new knowledge and improve outcomes through improved health and function, ability to return to work, and independent living—is unique within the federal government and not duplicated by any other agency. Through its support of rehabilitation research, capacity-building centers, TBI, SCI, and burn model systems,

and developing accessible technologies and knowledge translation—NIDILRR drives innovation in health, employment, housing, and community living for people with disabilities across the lifespan.

We are grateful for Congress' decision to fully fund NIDILRR in FY 2026, but when adjusted for inflation, NIDILRR's current budget supports far less research capacity than it did a decade ago. To adequately address the growing demand for community-based and data-driven disability research, and to support the next generation of disability researchers, we urge Congress to enact a long-overdue funding increase to \$150 million annually. This investment is critical to ensuring that research keeps pace with the evolving needs of the disability community, supports improvement in outcomes, and upholds the ultimate promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act<sup>1</sup> and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973<sup>2</sup>, as amended.

**The DRRC also supports full funding of programs under the Administration for Community Living that are complimentary of the research funded through NIDILRR, including the Limb Loss Resource Center, the Paralysis Resource Center, the Traumatic Brain Injury State Grant program, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. These programs are critical for the disability communities they serve.**

We appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to advancing disability and rehabilitation research.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

#### **Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) Members**

##### ***Alliance for NIDILRR Grantees\****

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

***American Association on Health & Disability\****

***American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine\****

***American Occupational Therapy Association\****

***American Physical Therapy Association\****

American Spinal Injury Association

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<sup>1</sup> *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213.

<sup>2</sup> *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.

American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
***Brain Injury Association of America\****  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
RESNA  
Spina Bifida Association  
United Spinal Association  
VisionServe Alliance

***DRRC Steering Committee Member\****

**Additional Supporting Organizations**

Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals  
Allies for Independence  
American Parkinson Disease Association  
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Beyond The Box Advocacy  
Burn Survivors of New England  
CommunicationFIRST  
Consortium of MS Centers  
Cornell University, Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability  
COVID-19 Longhauler Advocacy Project  
Craig Hospital  
Easterseals, Inc.  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
International Organization of MS Nurses  
Lakeshore Foundation  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Health Law Program  
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors  
Social Work Disability Justice League  
The University of Florida  
The University of Missouri-Kansas City's Institute for Human Development  
The University of Pittsburgh  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Vanderbilt Health

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