

**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable Donald J. Trump**

President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Subject:** Support for Funding the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for FY 2026

Dear President Trump,

We are writing on behalf of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM), the largest interdisciplinary rehabilitation professional association in the USA. Founded in 1923, we are dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities through rehabilitation research and innovation. Respectfully, we request your support to fully fund the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at \$119 million for Fiscal Year 2026.

We understand the current fiscal constraints and your commitment to a balanced federal budget. Supporting NIDILRR aligns well with this goal, as its research portfolio has consistently delivered practical, cost-effective outcomes over the years.

**NIDILRR's Unique and Essential Role**

NIDILRR is the only federal agency dedicated exclusively to applied research focused on improving independent living and employment for Americans with disabilities, <sup>1</sup> significantly enhancing their quality of life and reducing long-term healthcare expenses.

**Model Systems Programs**

The Model Systems for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Burn Injury are nationally recognized benchmarks in rehabilitation care and research. These programs generate epidemiologic data, educational resources, and evidence-based guidelines <sup>2,3</sup> that can reduce medical complications and re-hospitalizations, hence contributing to reduced costs.

**Economic and Community Impact**

Programs funded by NIDILRR directly promote economic independence through innovations in rehabilitation technology and vocational training. For instance, community-based initiatives like "Living Well in the Community" have empowered thousands of people with disabilities nationwide to facilitate workforce participation and reduce expenditures. <sup>4</sup>

ACRM's bipartisan advocacy legacy includes critical contributions to landmark legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and we remain committed to advancing disability and rehabilitation research.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this vital funding request. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the significant impacts of NIDILRR programs and can be reached at +1 (703) 474-7208.

Respectfully,



Fofi Constantinidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*



Jon Lindberg, MBA, CAE, *CEO, ACRM*



Prateek Grover, MD, PhD, MHA, *Chair, Policy & Legislation Committee, ACRM*

CC: The Honorable Donald J. Trump; Ms. Susie Wiles; Mr. Elon Musk; Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; Speaker Mike Johnson; Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries; Majority Leader Chuck Schumer; Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Sen. Patty Murray; Sen. Susan Collins; Rep. Kay Granger; Rep. Rosa DeLauro; Sen. Mike Crapo; Rep. Jodey Arrington; Director Shalanda Young

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#### References:

<sup>1</sup> [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\) About ACL, Administration for Community Living, 2024.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center \(NSCISC\), Annual Statistical Report, 2024](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center, Evidence-Based Practices, 2024.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Living Well with a Disability, a Self-Management Program | MMWR](#)