

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, ¹ 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 ^{2,3} 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. ⁴

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

References:

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

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

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

May 27, 2025

Ms. Susie Wiles

Chief of Staff
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 Ms. Wiles,

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May 27, 2025

Mr. Elon Musk

Founder
The Boring Company
4825 Quality Court
Las Vegas, NV 89103

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

Dear Mr. Musk,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

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The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Johnson,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Minority Leader Jeffries,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Schumer

House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell

House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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United States Senate
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U.S. House of Representatives
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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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*

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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

References:

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

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

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

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Rose DeLauro

U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representative DeLauro,

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, ¹ 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 ^{2,3} that can reduce medical complications and re-hospitalizations, hence contributing to reduced costs.

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo

United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Crapo,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jodey Arrington

U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representative Arrington,

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.

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Shalanda Young

Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

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

Dear Director Young,

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