

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Angela D. Alsobrooks

United States Senate
374 Russell 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 Alsobrooks,

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:

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 Tammy Baldwin

United States Senate
141 Hart 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 Baldwin,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jim Banks

United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Barrasso

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet

United States Senate
261 Russell 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 Bennet,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

United States Senate
357 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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

United States Senate
503 Hart 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 Blumenthal,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester

United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Cory A. Booker

United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ted Budd

United States Senate
354 Russell 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 Budd,

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

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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.

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell

United States Senate
511 Hart 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 Cantwell,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

United States Senate
170 Russell 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 Capito,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy

United States Senate
455 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 Cassidy,

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 Susan M. Collins

United States Senate
413 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 Collins,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons

United States Senate
218 Russell 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 Coons,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Cornyn

United States Senate
517 Hart 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 Cornyn,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto

United States Senate
309 Hart 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 Cortez Masto,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cotton

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Kevin Cramer

United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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The Honorable Mike Crapo

United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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Subject: Support for Funding the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for FY 2026

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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.

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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,

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz

United States Senate
167 Russell 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 Cruz,

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 John R. Curtis

United States Senate
502 Hart 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 Curtis,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Steve Daines

United States Senate
320 Hart 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 Daines,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth

United States Senate
524 Hart 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 Duckworth,

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 Richard J. Durbin

United States Senate
711 Hart 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 Durbin,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Joni Ernst

United States Senate
260 Russell 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 Ernst,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Fetterman

United States Senate
142 Russell 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 Fetterman,

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 Deb Fischer

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ruben Gallego

United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand

United States Senate
478 Russell 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 Gillibrand,

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Lindsey Graham

United States Senate
211 Russell 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 Graham,

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.

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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*

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley

United States Senate
135 Hart 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 Grassley,

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 Bill Hagerty

United States Senate
251 Russell 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 Hagerty,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan

United States Senate
324 Hart 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 Hassan,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Josh Hawley

United States Senate
379A Russell 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 Hawley,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Martin Heinrich

United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper

United States Senate
316 Hart 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 Hickenlooper,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono

United States Senate
109 Hart 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 Hirono,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Hoeven

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jon Husted

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith

United States Senate
528 Hart 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 Hyde-Smith,

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ron Johnson

United States Senate
328 Hart 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 Johnson,

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 James C. Justice

United States Senate
G12 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 Justice,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tim Kaine

United States Senate
231 Russell 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 Kaine,

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 Mark Kelly

United States Senate
516 Hart 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 Kelly,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Kennedy

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Andy Kim

United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Angus S., Jr. King

United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar

United States Senate
425 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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable James Lankford

United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee

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

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

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

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

United States Senate
498 Russell 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 Luján,

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.

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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*

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis

United States Senate
127A Russell 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 Lummis,

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 Edward J. Markey

United States Senate
255 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 Markey,

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 Roger Marshall

United States Senate
479A Russell 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 Marshall,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

United States Senate
317 Russell 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 McConnell,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable David McCormick

United States Senate
702 Hart 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 McCormick,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Merkley

United States Senate
531 Hart 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 Merkley,

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 Ashley Moody

United States Senate
387 Russell 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 Moody,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran

United States Senate
521 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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin

United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
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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.

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

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

United States Senate
522 Hart 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 Murkowski,

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.

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Christopher Murphy

United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Patty Murray

United States Senate
154 Russell 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 Murray,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jon Ossoff

United States Senate
317 Hart 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 Ossoff,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Gary C. Peters

United States Senate
724 Hart 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 Peters,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jack Reed

United States Senate
728 Hart 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 Reed,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Pete Ricketts

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

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable James E. Risch

United States Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
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Subject: Support for Funding the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for FY 2026

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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 Jacky Rosen

United States Senate
713 Hart 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 Rosen,

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

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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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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*

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike Rounds

United States Senate
716 Hart 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 Rounds,

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 Bernard Sanders

United States Senate
332 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 Sanders,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Brian Schatz

United States Senate
722 Hart 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 Schatz,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff

United States Senate
112 Hart 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 Schiff,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Eric Schmitt

United States Senate
404 Russell 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 Schmitt,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

United States Senate
322 Hart 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 Schumer,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Rick Scott

United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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104 Hart Senate Office Building
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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen

United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tim Sheehy

United States Senate
G55 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

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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,

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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 Elissa Slotkin

United States Senate
291 Russell 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 Slotkin,

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.

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tina Smith

United States Senate
720 Hart 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 Smith,

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 Dan Sullivan

United States Senate
706 Hart 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 Sullivan,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable John Thune

United States Senate
511 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 Thune,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis

United States Senate
113 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 Tillis,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville

United States Senate
455 Russell 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 Tuberville,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

United States Senate
730 Hart 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 Van Hollen,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Mark R. Warner

United States Senate
703 Hart 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 Warner,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Raphael G. Warnock

United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Peter Welch

United States Senate
115 Russell 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 Welch,

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:

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 Sheldon Whitehouse

United States Senate
530 Hart 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 Whitehouse,

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker

United States Senate
425 Russell 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 Wicker,

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 Ron Wyden

United States Senate
221 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 Wyden,

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