

**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,<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 Constantnidou, 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:

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- <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](#)

**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

Dear Senator Banks,

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**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable John Barrasso**

United States Senate  
307 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 Barrasso,

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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

Dear Senator Blackburn,

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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

**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 Cory A. Booker**

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

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United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
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- <sup>4</sup> [Living Well with a Disability, a Self-Management Program | MMWR](#)

**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable Katie Boyd Britt**  
United States Senate  
416 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 Britt,

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 Constantnidou, 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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**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,

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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,

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 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,

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 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,

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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

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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

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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

Dear Senator Cramer,

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 Constantnidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*

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**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,

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 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,

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 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,

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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

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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

Dear Senator Fischer,

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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.<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 Constantnidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*

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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

Dear Senator Gallego,

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.

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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,

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 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,

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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,

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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,

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,

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Jon Lindberg, MBA, CAE, *CEO, 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

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- <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](#)

**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

Dear Senator Hoeven,

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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

Dear Senator Husted,

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 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,

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 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,

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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,

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 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

Dear Senator Kennedy,

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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

Dear Senator Kim,

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- <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](#)

**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable Angus S., Jr. King**  
United States Senate  
133 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 King,

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 Constantnidou, 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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**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

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

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 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

Dear Senator Lankford,

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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

Dear Senator Lee,

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 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,

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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,

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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,

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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

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**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

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United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
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- <sup>4</sup> [Living Well with a Disability, a Self-Management Program | MMWR](#)

**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.

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,

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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,

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 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

Dear Senator Moran,

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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

Dear Senator Moreno,

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**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable Markwayne Mullin**  
United States Senate  
330 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 Mullin,

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**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,

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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

Dear Senator Murphy,

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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

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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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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 Constantnidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*

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

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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

Dear Senator Paul,

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.

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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,

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 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

Dear Senator Ricketts,

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 E. Risch**

United States Senate  
483 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 Risch,

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**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,

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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,

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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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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.

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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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- <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](#)

**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

Dear Senator Scott,

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**May 27, 2025**

**The Honorable Tim Scott**

United States Senate  
104 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 Scott,

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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

Dear Senator Shaheen,

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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

Dear Senator Sheehy,

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**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,

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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,

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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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- <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](#)

**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,

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 Constantnidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*

Jon Lindberg, MBA, CAE, *CEO, 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

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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,

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 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

Dear Senator Warnock,

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 Elizabeth Warren**

United States Senate  
311 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 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,

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**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,

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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](#)

**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,

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 Constantnidou, PhD, *President, ACRM*

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