



The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
United States Senate
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2024

**RE: Severe Cuts to Rehabilitation and Disability Research Programs in House FY 2025
Labor, Health & Human Service, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill**

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito:

The Disability & Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC), a coalition of national non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of medical rehabilitation, disability, and independent living, writes to express our serious concerns with the proposed 7% cuts and eliminations of programs for the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) in the House of Representative's FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) appropriations bill.

The DRRC focuses on increasing and leveraging federal resources devoted to medical rehabilitation, disability, and independent living research. Our goal is to improve the ability of individuals with disabilities to function and live as independently as possible. The House Appropriations Committee is proposing to cut essential programs that are critical to achieving this goal. **Just as you did in FY 2024, we urge you to continue your leadership in supporting these programs and continue bipartisan support for disability and rehabilitation research by fully funding—to the maximum extent possible—these programs in the Senate L-HHS bill.**

The House L-HHS bill specifically proposes to cut or eliminate the following programs:

- **Total restructuring** of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 27 institutes and centers to 15 institutes and centers
 - **Nearly eliminates** funding for the All of Us initiative from \$235 million in FY 2024 to \$36 million
- **Cuts** funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by **\$1.776 billion**
 - **Eliminates** funding for the National Center for Injury Prevention, cutting \$761 million in research
 - **Cuts** funding for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion by **nearly \$300 million**
- **Cuts** funding to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) by **\$1.5 billion**
- **Eliminates** funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

We believe your Committee has invested in disability and medical rehabilitation research in previous appropriation bills to the great benefit of Americans living with disabilities. The House Appropriations bill would result in long-term damage to disability and rehabilitation research. We urge you to fully fund these programs in your FY 2025 L-HHS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact DRRC Co-Coordinator Peter Thomas at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com or Natalie Keller at Natalie.Keller@PowersLaw.com

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Disability & Rehabilitation Research Coalition

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
 American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Association on Health & Disability*
 American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association*
American Physical Therapy Association*
 American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of Academic Physiatrists*
 Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
 Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Brain Injury Association of America*
 Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
 National Association for the Advancement Orthotics & Prosthetics
 National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
 Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
 Spina Bifida Association
 United Spinal Association
 VisionServe Alliance

****DRRC Steering Committee Member***