



January 28, 2025

Matthew J. Vaeth
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget

RE: OMB Memorandum Pausing Federal Financial Assistance (M-25-13)

Dear Mr. Vaeth:

The Disability & Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) is deeply concerned by the memorandum distributed by your office on January 27, 2025, directing all federal agencies to pause Federal financial assistance for many programs and activities that are essential for people with disabilities, including significant investments in rehabilitation and disability research.

The DRRC is a coalition of 26 national research, clinical, and consumer non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation. The DRRC seeks to maximize the return on the federal research investment in these areas with the goal of improving the ability of Americans with disabilities to live and function as independently as possible following an injury, illness, disability, or chronic condition.

Since our coalition's inception in 2008, we have closely monitored and supported federal appropriations to rehabilitation and disability research programs to raise the return on investment for individuals living with disabilities and chronic conditions. We are dismayed to learn hard-won progress in research may be delayed by the mandated freeze and subsequent comprehensive analysis of programs. We are further concerned that many agencies and programs do not yet have political appointees to conduct the required analyses of Federal financial assistance. We ask that your office provide more information to the American people on the programs whose funds are now frozen, a detailed timeline for resuming funding, and more information on the political appointees who will be leading these program analyses.

As you know, late today, a federal court temporarily blocked this pause in federal funding. We look forward to working with you to resolve this matter expeditiously. Please contact DRRC Co-Coordinator Peter Thomas at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com or Natalie Keller at Natalie.Keller@PowersLaw.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter W. Thomas".

Peter W. Thomas, JD
DRRC Co-Coordinator
Managing Partner
Powers Law Firm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Keller".

Natalie Keller
DRRC Co-Coordinator
Assistant Director of Government Relations
Powers Law Firm

CC

Senate Majority Leader John Thune

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries

Chair of Senate Committee on Appropriations Susan Collins

Chair of House Committee on Appropriations Tom Cole

Ranking Member of Senate Committee on Appropriations Patty Murray

Ranking Member of House Committee on Appropriations Rosa DeLauro