



June 26, 2026

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

RE: DRRC Concerns Regarding Funding Delays Impacting the National Paralysis Resource Center

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

On behalf of the undersigned Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) members, we write to express our serious concern regarding the significant delay in the release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for the National Paralysis Resource Center, which is currently operated by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation under a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (“ACL”).

The DRRC is a coalition of national non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of medical rehabilitation, disability, and independent living. 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.

For more than two decades, the National Paralysis Resource Center has served as a vital national resource for individuals living with paralysis, their families, caregivers, researchers, and service providers. Through its information and referral services, peer support programs, educational resources, and community grants, the National Paralysis Resource Center has helped countless Americans navigate the challenges associated with spinal cord injury, paralysis, and related disabilities. The Center’s work advances independence, community participation, health, and quality of life for people with disabilities, including veterans, across the country.

The continued delay in issuing the NOFO has created significant uncertainty regarding the future operation of this critical program. In fact, we understand that the delay is already affecting staffing and operational planning at the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Such uncertainty, even after the FY 2027 funds have been Congressionally appropriated, threatens the continuity of services relied upon by thousands of individuals with paralysis and their families. It also places at risk the institutional knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure that have been developed over many years to support this nationally recognized program.

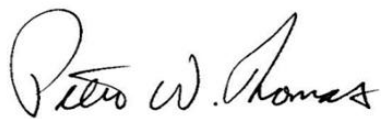
As organizations committed to advancing disability and rehabilitation research, services, and community living, DRRC members are deeply concerned that any interruption in funding could undermine access to essential resources and supports for individuals with paralysis. Federal investments in programs such as the National Paralysis Resource Center are intended to provide stability and continuity for beneficiaries. Delays of this magnitude run counter to those objectives and create unnecessary disruption for both the administering organization and the individuals it serves. The forecast was published by the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) on April 22, 2026, with an estimated post date of May 1st, and grants were estimated to be due on June 1st; however, both deadlines have now been missed, and as of today, there is no sign of their publication. On July 1st, critical programs under the National Paralysis Resource Center that are funded by the federal government will cease.

Accordingly, we respectfully implore ACL to take immediate steps to release the NOFO and ensure the critical, Congressionally-appropriated, and timely funding for the National Paralysis Resource Center. We further request that ACL work expeditiously to complete the award process so that there is no interruption in services, staffing, or program operations. Individuals living with paralysis should not bear the consequences of administrative delays beyond their control.

The National Paralysis Resource Center represents one of the federal government’s most visible and impactful investments in supporting people living with paralysis. Ensuring the continuity of this program is essential to maintaining the trust of the disability community and preserving access to the resources and supports that so many Americans depend upon every day.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns and work with ACL to ensure the continued success of the National Paralysis Resource Center. If you have any questions or if the DRRC can assist you and your colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Thomas at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com, or call 202-349-4251.

Sincerely,



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

On behalf of the following DRRC Members:

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals, Inc.
Alliance for NIDILRR Grantees*
American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association on Health and Disability*
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Medical Informatics Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association*
American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association
American Physical Therapy Association*
American Spinal Injury Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Amputee Coalition
Association of Academic Physiatrists*
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Brain Injury Association of America*
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Clinician Task Force
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics (NAAOP)
National Neurotrauma Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
RESNA
Spina Bifida Association
United Spinal Association
VisionServe Alliance

****Indicates DRRC Steering Committee Member***

CC:

The Honorable Mary Lazare
Principal Deputy Administrator
Administration for Community Living
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201