



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

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

July 25, 2023

RE: Severe Cuts to Rehabilitation and Disability Research Programs in House FY 2024 Labor, Health & Human Service, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Dear Chair Murray and Vice Chair Collins:

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 \$14 billion in cuts and eliminations of programs for the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) in the House of Representative's proposed FY 2024 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 and as independently as possible. The House Appropriations Committee is proposing to cut essential programs that are critical to achieving this goal. **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:

- **Cuts** funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by **\$3.8 billion**
 - **Cuts** funding to the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) by **\$1 billion**
- **Cuts** funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by **\$1.6 billion**
 - **Cuts** funding for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion by **nearly half** from **\$1.43 billion to \$797.5 million**
- **Cuts** funding to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) by **\$700 million**
- **Eliminates** funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- **Cuts** funding for the Administration for Community Living by **\$6.4 million**
 - Although the appropriations proposals for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and other disability programs under the Administration for Community Living (ACL) are not yet known, we fear similar draconian cuts to these vital programs.

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. This 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 2024 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

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

American Association on Health & Disability

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Occupational Therapy Association*

American Physical Therapy Association*

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Association of Academic Physiatrists*

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Brain Injury Association of America*

Child Neurology Society

Lakeshore Foundation

National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers *

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Neurotrauma Society

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

Spina Bifida Association

United Spinal Association

****DRRC Steering Committee Member***