

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

ANNOUNCEMENT

December 9, 2016

Contact: Leif Brierley
Leif.Brierley@PowersLaw.com
(202) 466-6550

House and Senate Pass Bipartisan Legislation to Enhance Medical Rehabilitation Research at the NIH as Part of 21st Century Cures Act; Capitol Hill Briefing Celebrates Success and Highlights Importance of Rehabilitation and Disability Research

Washington, D.C. – This week, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to enhance and better coordinate medical rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of the landmark 21st Century Cures Act. The rehabilitation research legislation, S.800/H.R. 1631, the Enhancing the Stature and Visibility of Medical Rehabilitation Research at the NIH Act, was included in Section 2040 of the Cures Act. Introduced in the House by Congressmen Gregg Harper (R-MS) and James Langevin (D-RI) and in the Senate by Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Michael Bennet (D-CO), the bipartisan, bicameral legislation was fully supported by NIH officials, rehabilitation research organizations, clinical associations and disability and consumer groups. Overall, the legislation builds upon the conclusions and recommendations of an NIH Blue Ribbon Panel on Medical Rehabilitation Research, which issued a comprehensive report in January 2013.

Earlier today, at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill organized by the American Physical Therapy Association and cohosted by members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC), Congressmen Harper and Langevin celebrated the bill's inclusion in the Cures Act. Rep. Harper highlighted the ability of medical rehabilitation research to help restore lost function for millions of Americans with disabilities, traumatic injuries, and chronic conditions. Rep. Langevin shared his personal experience with medical rehabilitation, having required intensive therapy after becoming paralyzed at the age of 16. He said that rehabilitation research is essential in order to improve health care outcomes, and support for this research will make a tremendous difference for people with disabilities who want to live fulfilling, independent lives.

The Congressional briefing was moderated by Justin Moore, PT, DPT, Chief Executive Officer of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and featured remarks by a panel representing patient, researcher, and government perspectives.

Dr. Alison Cernich, Director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), part of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the NIH, shared her Center's newly revised [2016 National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Research Plan on Rehabilitation](#), aimed at advancing and energizing the field of rehabilitation research. The plan is a five-year roadmap intended to address a broad range of

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

rehabilitation research science. Nearly two years in development, the revision was guided by the 2013 Blue Ribbon Panel and is the first change made to the plan in more than two decades.

Dr. Rebecca Craik, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Arcadia University, served as Chair of the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research for the NIH, and was a co-chair of the NIH Blue Ribbon Panel on Rehabilitation Research. She provided background on medical rehabilitation, and shared the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel that set up the work by NCMRR to revamp its Research Plan, establish a dedicated line of funding for NCMRR research, and improve research coordination.

Josh Rouch, a patient who sustained a traumatic brain injury and received rehabilitative care, shared his personal story of injury and recovery. In telling this moving story, Mr. Rouch described the great strides he has made through rehabilitation services and supports that have allowed him to advance his education and career. A testament to his rehabilitation care and his own hard work to overcome the challenges from his injury, Josh is now a college graduate and has become successfully employed.

The briefing was organized by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and was co-hosted by the DRRC and several DRRC member organizations, including the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Therapeutic Recreation Association, American Music Therapy Association, Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, Brain Injury Association of America, and the United Spinal Association.

The DRRC is a coalition of over 25 national non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of rehabilitation and disability in order to maximize the return on the federal investment in rehabilitation and disability research with the goal of optimizing the health and function and quality of life of persons with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions.

For further information about this event or the DRRC, please contact Leif Brierley at Leif.Brierley@PowersLaw.com or 202-466-6550.

DRRC Steering Committee

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Brain Injury Association of America

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

DRRC Member Organizations

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Amputee Coalition of America
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Brain Injury Association of America
Child Neurology Society
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
National Association for the Advancement Orthotics & Prosthetics
National Association of Rehabilitation Research Training Centers
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
RESNA
United Spinal Association