

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B RHOB, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 LHOB, Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As co-chairs of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, we write to request \$115 million in Fiscal Year 2021 funding for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), housed within the Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Services.

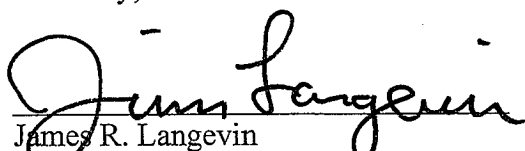
NIDILRR's mission is to generate and promote new knowledge that improves the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community. NIDILRR's scope includes exploring new and innovative strategies, interventions, and technologies to better achieve the promises of the Americans with Disabilities Act – equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. The requested funding for NIDILRR within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) would support the continuation and expansion of this important work.

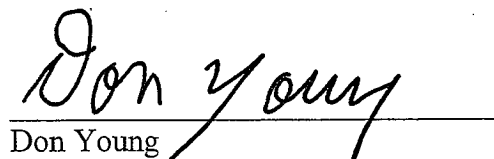
As you may know, NIDILRR only recently reached a funding level consistent with pre-sequestration levels. A \$3 million increase for FY 2021 would support critical initiatives at NIDILRR, expanding and improving:

- Research and development to address the needs of people with disabilities, including the expansion of field-initiated research to apply that knowledge to improve health, function, independent living, and employment outcomes for people with disabilities;
- Research capacity and support for rehabilitation researchers, including the development of models of interdisciplinary research collaboration; and
- Knowledge translation and consultation to entities that have a responsibility to fully implement the Americans with Disabilities Act.

With proper funding for the Institute, NIDILRR will continue to maintain a diverse portfolio of research, development, training, technical assistance, and knowledge translation initiatives to benefit people with disabilities. We urge the Committee to include a \$3 million increase for NIDILRR in FY 2021 and thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

Sincerely,


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress