

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

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

September 24, 2014

Re: Request for Cosponsorship of S. 1027 to Enhance Rehabilitation and Disability Research
at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Dear Senator:

We write to seek your cosponsorship of important legislation, S. 1027, designed to enhance the stature of rehabilitation and disability research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

S. 1027 is bipartisan legislation introduced by Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), two individuals who know first-hand the impact that quality rehabilitation services can have on one's ability to regain health, function independently, prevent further disability, and return to work, following an illness, injury, disability or chronic condition.

S. 1027 was introduced in 2013 and a series of enhanced provisions have been developed on a consensus basis. These enhancements are attached for your review and are designed to further advance rehabilitation and disability research at NIH. The bill seeks to elevate the stature of rehabilitation science, better coordinate the \$300 million spent annually on this type of research, and deliver the maximum return on the federal investment. As such, the bill is expected to be budget neutral.

With the aging population and a large disability demographic, it is critical to maximize the outcomes of rehabilitation and disability science in order to translate findings into better treatments for this population. We urge you to cosponsor S. 1027 at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

DRRC Organizations

American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers
American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Foundation for the Blind
American Heart Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Stroke Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Amputee Coalition
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Brain Injury Association of America
Child Neurology Foundation
Child Neurology Society
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Mental Health America
National Association for the Advancement Orthotics & Prosthetics
National Association of Rehabilitation Research Training Centers
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
North American Brain Injury Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
RESNA
United Spinal Association