

# DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

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## **Opposition to Proposed Transfer of National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) strongly oppose the Administration's proposal in its FY 2019 Budget to transfer the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The proposal would refute Congress's thoughtful, forward-thinking decision in 2014 to amend Title II of the Rehabilitation Act (Title IV of The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)) to transfer NIDILRR from the Department of Education (ED) to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Transferring NIDILRR to NIH would undermine NIDILRR's mission and decimate the diverse portfolio of research, development, training, technical assistance and knowledge translation projects carried out each year by NIDILRR that improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

Further, DRRC continues to support provisions in the 2014 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act and Section 2040 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act that mandate cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between NIDILRR and NIH (and other agencies carrying out disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research) and your directive in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments for the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) to develop and implement a comprehensive, government-wide strategic plan on disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

### **DRRC supported the transfer of NIDILRR from ED to ACL and now opposes the re-transfer of NIDILRR to NIH for the following reasons:**

- NIDILRR's and NIH's respective missions are distinct and complementary, not duplicative.
- The transfer of NIDILRR to NIH would decimate NIDILRR's diverse portfolio of research, development, training, technical assistance and knowledge translation initiatives carried out on behalf of people with disabilities.
- The proposed transfer would foreclose accomplishments of the type achieved in the past.
- ACL is the appropriate home for NIDILRR and NIDILRR is fully complementary to ACL's overall mission.
- Efforts to enhance cooperation, coordination, and collaboration are best accomplished through interagency agreements and the development and implementation of a comprehensive, government-wide strategic plan.

Therefore, *DRRC urges Congress to NOT take up the Administration's FY 2019 Budget proposal to transfer NIDILRR to the NIH.*