



July 11, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
520 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
22267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: ITEM Coalition Support for Continued Funding for National Limb Loss Resource Center and Paralysis Resource Center at the Administration for Community Living

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned members of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (“ITEM”) Coalition write to express our strong support for the continued funding of the National Limb Loss Resource Center (“NLLRC”) and the Paralysis Resource Center (“PRC”), programs administered by the Administration for Community Living (“ACL”). These centers fulfill critical needs by providing free, comprehensive information, peer support, and navigational assistance that empower Americans living with limb loss, limb difference, or paralysis to live independently and fully participate in their communities.

The ITEM Coalition is a national consumer- and clinician-led coalition advocating for access to and coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services for people with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions of all ages. Our members represent individuals with a wide range of disabling conditions, as well as the providers who serve them, including spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, limb loss, multiple sclerosis, paralysis, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, hearing, speech, and visual impairments, and other life-altering conditions.

The President’s federal fiscal year (“FY”) 2026 budget request proposes to eliminate funding for both the National Limb Loss and Paralysis Resource Centers, a proposal that could have a disastrous and unnecessary impact on individuals living with disabilities. The Limb Loss Resource Center, operated by the Amputee Coalition, is the only national hub dedicated to serving the 5.6 million veterans and civilians with limb loss or limb difference. With more than 500,000 amputations annually—and projections showing that number could double by 2050 due

to rising rates of diabetes, vascular disease, and other contributing factors—the center’s role is essential. The important services provided through this center help guide individuals and families through rehabilitation, prosthetic fitting, prosthetic device maintenance, and reintegration into work, education, and community life.

Similarly, the Paralysis Resource Center, led by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, serves approximately 5.4 million individuals in the United States living with some form of paralysis due to spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions. Through this center, individuals, caregivers and military veterans impacted by paralysis receive person-centered assistance that connects them to housing, transportation, employment assistance, home- and community-based services, and trusted peer-to-peer mentorship. The Paralysis Resource Center also directs funds to organizations providing direct services to communities across the country.

These programs embody ACL’s mission of promoting independence and community engagement for people with disabilities. By preventing isolation, improving health outcomes, and helping individuals and their families access evidence-based services, they also serve as cost-effective investments in long-term community integration.

As Congress works to finalize FY 2026 appropriations, the ITEM Coalition urges Congressional leadership to not move forward with the proposal to eliminate funding for these critical programs and to appropriate continued, sustained, and robust funding for both centers. Investing in these vital services improves health and function, supports dignity, improves quality of life, enhances economic participation, and ensures Americans living with disabilities have the tools and supports they need to live independently and with dignity.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring these programs remain funded and strong. We stand ready to provide additional data, constituent stories, or expert discussions to support your efforts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact ITEM Coalition co-coordinators Peter Thomas and Michael Barnett at Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com or Michael.Barnett@PowersLaw.com or call 202-466-6550.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the ITEM Coalition

Access Ready, Inc.

ACCSES

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

All Wheels Up

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Association on Health and Disability

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF)
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Clinician Task Force
CureLGMD2i
3DA
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Lakeshore Foundation
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL)
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Respite Coalition
NCART
RESNA
Rifton Equipment
Spina Bifida Association*
Team Gleason*
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
The Viscardi Center

****ITEM Coalition Steering Committee Member***