



October 17, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt,

The Amputee Coalition represents the over 4 million Americans with limb loss and limb difference. We are the current grantee for the Administration for Community Living's National Limb Loss Resource Center that provides education, information, support services, and resources for people living with limb loss and limb difference. This \$4.2 million program is critical for this population and funding for these activities is not found anywhere else in the federal budget. That is why we were greatly disappointed to learn that the House's FY2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill cut this program by more than 50 percent. We believe it is critical that this funding is restored in conference with the Senate, who maintained the program's full funding level in their FY2024 LHHS bill.

While we understand the budgetary constraints the House LHHS bill was under, it was disappointing to learn that the National Limb Loss Resource Center was cut by \$2 million. This program provides direct services to those who undergo an amputation and those born with limb difference free of charge. We run almost 300 support groups and work with 780 trained peer visitors; a hospital partnership program with a growing list of more than 127 hospital partners who ensure patients receive informational resources immediately after their amputation surgery; and a youth engagement program to provide life skills, education and training, and mentorship. One of the cornerstones of our services is our strong workforce development program that trains individuals for employment or reemployment to ensure they stay an active part of their community and, importantly, not reliant on federal safety net programs. In addition, the Center supports our military servicemembers and veterans through partnerships and volunteer programs with the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the Center has recently expanded its work to include mental and behavioral health services. As you can imagine, the loss of a limb is a traumatic experience and it is important that if an individual is struggling, they can reach out to staff specifically trained to help them, many of whom themselves are amputees. We are incredibly proud of the work we do for this population, especially given that we do so with a relatively small number of federal resources.

Further, we wanted to address the report language that accompanied the cut in funding. The LHHS report noted that, "this is a competitive grant program that has had the same grantee." While factual, we want to make sure that it is understood that this is a competitive program run by the Administration for Community Living that has been recompeteted every five years since the program's establishment in 1997.

The Amputee Coalition is proud to have won this competition each time and we believe we have done so because we are the only organization that can provide these types of diverse services in all 50 states.

The National Limb Loss Resource Center supports millions of Americans with limb loss and limb difference to live healthier, safer, independent, and more fulfilling lives. This work could not be possible without the \$4.2 million investment from the federal government. It is our hope that when a final FY2024 appropriations bill is finalized, full funding will be maintained for this critical program. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that result.

Respectfully,



Cass Isidro, MBA
President & Chief Executive Officer
Amputee Coalition

cc: The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

