



H.R. 1727 – Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1727 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on March 28, 2007. It was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 27, 2007.

H.R. 1727 is expected to be considered on the House floor on October 15, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1727 enables the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to expand and coordinate medical research on paralysis, as well as research for enhancing daily function for people with paralysis.

This legislation establishes a grant program directed by the NIH to pay for the cost of establishing, improving, and providing operating support for consortia in paralysis research, each consortium funded by these grants will be designated a Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Research Consortium.

H.R. 1727 establishes an additional grant program through the NIH which would be awarded to public or nonprofit private entities that will design clinical rehabilitation intervention protocols on forms of paralysis that result from central nervous system trauma, disorders, or stroke.

Under this legislation, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may award grants or contracts to study health challenges associated with paralysis and other physical disabilities and carry out projects to improve the quality of life and health status of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

H.R. 1727 would authorize \$25 million a year for 2008 through 2011.

BACKGROUND

According to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, there are approximately 4 to 5 million people in the United States living with paralysis.

Paralysis is most often caused by spinal cord injuries, stroke, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and spina bifida.

In 1995, Christopher Reeve, the actor famous for playing the role of Superman, damaged his spinal cord in an equestrian competition.

COST

“CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$10 million in 2008 and \$93 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting H.R. 1727 would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

Staff Contact

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