

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Paralysis Act **Frequently Asked Questions**

How many people could potentially benefit from this legislation?

Potentially five million people living with paralysis, their caregivers and family members could benefit from the research, rehabilitation and quality of life initiatives in this bill.

Who supports this bill?

The CDRPA unanimously passed the House of Representatives in October of 2007. The bill has been approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and awaits a vote by the full Senate. The bill has 33 cosponsors in the Senate and strong bipartisan support, including that of the leadership. Three years ago, in the 108th Congress, the heads of each federal agency and department affected by this legislation expressed their support for both the vision and the policies it proposed.

Does the bill address stem cell research policy?

No. The CDRPA, even in the research section, does not in any way, shape, or form address stem cell research.

If the bill doesn't actually force the federal government to change policies or create programs, why is the bill necessary?

The federal government has never passed a single piece of legislation to develop, refine, or address our nation's policy on supporting research, rehabilitation, and quality of life for individuals with paralysis. The CDRPA sets a much needed framework and guidelines to help advance science and, for the first time, make dramatic improvements in these critical areas.

Is this bill disease specific?

No. Paralysis and mobility impairment are not disease specific issues. They are medical conditions resulting from numerous diseases and disorders, including traumatic brain injury, stroke, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, injuries from athletic activities, injuries from combat in the U.S. Armed Forces, and many others.

How much will this bill cost?

The CDRPA is deliberately written to give the Administration maximum flexibility in implementation. It sets a framework for improving research, rehabilitation and quality of life for individuals with paralysis. The CDRPA advances mechanisms to more efficiently spend current dollars. There is no new required funding in the bill.