



Christopher Reeve Foundation

CHRISTOPHER REEVE FOUNDATION STATEMENT ON THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC – NOVEMBER 9, 2005 – Michael Manganiello, Senior Vice President of Government Relations for the Christopher Reeve Foundation, made the following statement today at a press conference in support of the Small Business Innovation Research Program. *(OR ARE WE SUPPORTING AN ACT IN CONGRESS?) Do we want to mention other attendees?*

“Good morning, I’m Michael Manganiello, senior vice president, government relations, of the Christopher Reeve Foundation. I’m pleased to be here today to express the importance of innovative research that is frequently conducted by small businesses.

“As I’m sure most of you would agree, the devastation and prevalence of spinal cord injuries did not receive its due attention until our founder, Christopher Reeve, was injured in a horseback riding accident in 1995.

“But did you know that every 48 minutes an American is spinal cord injured?

“Did you know that approximately 11,000 new injuries occur each year?

“More than 50 percent of these injuries occur in vehicular accidents, compared to 9 percent that are sports-related.

“Christopher Reeve dedicated the last decade of his remarkable life to helping people understand these statistics, as well as the fact that there are few treatment options for patients suffering these injuries.

“Over the last decade – we, at the Christopher Reeve Foundation – have learned that most companies investing time and money into discovering cures and treatments for spinal cord injuries are small firms that have not reached profitability.

“Clearly, these are the very companies that need investment dollars – whether those dollars come from the venture capital investment community or the Small Business Administration via the Small Business Innovation Research program.

“Such SBIR funding is frequently the lifeblood of the small companies working in breakthrough areas of medicine that could include innovative treatments for spinal cord injuries.

“The SBA’s misinterpretation of eligibility standards related to Small Business Innovation Research awards is negatively impacting the millions of patients who suffer from diseases and illnesses including spinal cord injury.

“Christopher Reeve was a visionary. It is our charge to continue his forward movement by supporting research and the companies who are discovering innovative ways to treat paralysis. We are honored to join this coalition to restore the eligibility for SBIR grants to biotech and device companies that provide promise and hope for millions of Americans.

“Thank you for your attention.”

About CRF

The Christopher Reeve Foundation is dedicated to finding treatments and cures for spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the lives of people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, please visit www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

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