

UPDATE

neurosurgery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2009

Contact: Susanne Hartman

(202) 446-2028, shartman@neurosurgery.org

Nation's Neurosurgeons Launch Ad Campaign Opposing Senate Health Reform Bill

Doctors' Urgent Message: We Need Reform but This Isn't the RIGHT Remedy; Vote "NO"

(Washington, DC) –The [American Association of Neurological Surgeons](#) (AANS) and [Congress of Neurological Surgeons](#) (CNS) have joined thousands of other physicians from 12 medical specialty organizations to deliver an urgent message to the public and to Congress: we need reform, but this isn't the right reform; urge your Senator to vote "NO" on the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) (H.R. 3590) as introduced by [Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid](#).

The initiative, which features paid newspaper and radio advertisements, will run in Arkansas, Connecticut, Maine and Nebraska and is organized under the banner [Physicians United for Patients](#).

"We are proud to take a lead role in this effort. This is a defining moment, when the voice of physicians needs to be heard," comments **Troy M. Tippett, MD**, President of the AANS. "We believe this bill will put the government between patients and their doctors. It is therefore vital that concerned citizens call their Senators now and urge them to work for reform that protects patients -- and to vote no on this current bill. It's not too late to steer our leaders down a different path."

Gerald E. Rodts, MD, President of the CNS states, "It's crucial that the American public, and members of Congress, understand that not all doctors in America support this bill. We are deeply concerned that this legislation, with how it is currently written, will indeed harm the doctor-patient relationship, which is at the heart of quality care. The right healthcare reform will safeguard the doctor-patient relationship, not destroy it."

For more information and to view the ads, with the strong message, "Physicians Agree: Senate Health Care Bill is Bad Medicine for Patients," visit www.PhysiciansUnitedForPatients.org.

For more information on the position of AANS and CNS on healthcare reform issues, visit:

http://www.aans.org/legislative/aans/Neuro_HealthCareReform.asp or

<http://www.cns.org/advocacy/wc/nsHealthcareReform.aspx>.

###

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent approximately 7,600 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org.