



TAKE ACTION!

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Grassroots Action Alert

Healthcare Reform Moves Closer to Finish Line CONTACT CONGRESS TODAY AND URGE THEM TO VOTE NO!

In less than a week, the House of Representatives may vote on comprehensive healthcare reform legislation and a so-called “side-car” bill that would make changes to the Senate-passed “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (H.R. 3590). The AANS and CNS support the need for healthcare reform. However, we strongly oppose this particular bill because it shifts so much control over medical decisions to the federal government and ultimately may harm the quality of our nation’s health care and decrease timely access to neurosurgical care.

Specifically, the bill:

- Creates a new Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which would make arbitrary cuts in physician reimbursement with little or no Congressional oversight
- Expands the role of the federal government in determining quality of care standards
- Penalizes physicians who do not participate in Medicare’s flawed quality reporting program
- Fails to permanently repeal Medicare’s flawed sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula
- Lacks proven medical liability reforms
- Denies patients the right to privately contract with physicians

Now more than ever, we need you to contact and tell your Representative **to vote NO**.

TAKE ACTION NOW

The AANS and CNS are working hard on your behalf to prevail upon Congress to defeat this bill and start anew so we can achieve health system reform that empowers patients and preserves the practice of medicine -- without creating a huge government. But we can’t do it alone. **WE NEED YOU TO:**

1. **Call your Representative in Washington, D.C.** using the Alliance of Specialty Medicine Legislative Hotline at **1-866-899-4088**.
 - Follow the instructions and prompts
 - The AANS/CNS 4-digit **specialty code is 9595**
 - Once you enter your zip code, you will be connected to your elected officials
2. **Send an email to your Senators and Representative.** To send a letter (which you should personal to make it more effective) to your elected officials go to:
<http://capwiz.com/noc/issues/alert/?alertid=14815596>



MESSAGE POINTS

- As a surgeon and as your constituent, I urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This bill will harm the quality of our nation's healthcare and decrease timely access to neurosurgical care.
- The legislation inappropriately expands the role of the federal government in determining quality of care standards and penalizes physicians who do not participate in Medicare's flawed quality reporting program.
- The bill is devoid of proven medical liability reform measures -- such as those in force in California and Texas -- that have been shown to increase access to care and reduce costs in demonstrable ways.
- Largely unchecked by Congress or the courts, the bill gives the federal government unprecedented authority to change the Medicare program through the new Independent Payment Advisory Board, which could arbitrarily reduce payments to physicians for valuable life-saving care for elderly patients, thereby reducing treatment options in a dramatic way.
- The legislation fails to address Medicare's broken physician payment system. Physicians are the foundation of a strong healthcare system and for reform to be successful Medicare's sustainable growth rate (SGR) must be permanently repealed.
- By guaranteeing all patients the right to privately contract with their physicians -- without penalty -- patients will have greater access to physicians and the government will have budget certainty. Nothing in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act addresses these fundamental tenets, which we believe are essential components of real health system reform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about this and other healthcare reform issues can be found on the AANS and CNS websites at:

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact Katie O. Orrico, Director of the AANS/CNS Washington Office at korrico@neurosurgery.org or 202-446-2024.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!

