

UPDATE

neurosurgery

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Neurosurgeons Release 2017 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

IPAB Repeal and Expanding Support for GME Remain at the Top of Organized Neurosurgery's Priority List

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) released their [2017 legislative and regulatory agenda](#), which includes health policy action items that neurosurgeons plan to advance with Congress and the Trump Administration. Organized neurosurgery will be pursuing the following priorities:

- **Improving the health care delivery system**, including maintaining existing insurance market reforms and advancing solutions that will lower costs and expand choice. Additionally, to ensure that our nation's children have continuous health insurance coverage, Congress should reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- **Supporting quality resident training and education** by increasing the number of Medicare-funded residency positions and preserving the ability of surgeons to maximize education and training opportunities within the profession's current regulatory structures.
- **Abolishing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)** because Medicare payment decisions in the hands of an unelected, unaccountable governmental body with minimal congressional oversight will negatively affect timely access to quality neurosurgical care for our nation's senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- **Alleviating the medical liability crisis** with the adoption of proven reforms that are in place in California and Texas.
- **Continuing progress with medical innovation** through the repeal of the medical device tax and by implementing the 21st Century Cures Act.
- **Restructuring Medicare's quality improvement programs** by streamlining the new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), adopting specialty-specific quality measures and alternative payment models (APMs) and ensuring electronic health record (EHR) interoperability.
- **Championing fair reimbursement** and preserving timely access to care by maintaining a viable fee-for-service option in Medicare and by empowering patients and physicians to privately contract fee arrangements. Additionally, Medicare must maintain the 10- and 90-day global surgery payment package and minimize the burden of the global surgery code data collection initiative.
- **Modernizing Medicare to a defined contribution system**, to enhance beneficiary choice and ensure the viability of the program into the future.

"As 2017 unfolds, the AANS and CNS will continue to urge policymakers to take action on our top issues to ensure that our patients have timely access to high-quality neurosurgical care," said Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, FAANS, a practicing neurosurgeon from Hershey, Pennsylvania and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee.

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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 over 8,000 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, read our blog www.neurosurgeryblog.org, follow us on [Twitter](#) or connect with us on [Facebook](#).