# NeurosurgeryPAC

## 2022 Annual Report

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## Thank you, 2022 NeurosurgeryPAC contributors!

Dear Fellow NeurosurgeryPAC Contributors,

I am honored and excited to serve as the new chair of your political action committee. Allow me to share of few of my thoughts with you.

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions in 2022. Due to your participation and generosity, NeurosurgeryPAC was able to support Congressional candidates who helped (or pledged to help) advance neurosurgery's legislative policy agenda for the benefit of all neurosurgeons and their patients.

While the past few years have been challenging due to the pandemic and ongoing political divisiveness in our country, in the 2022 election cycle, NeurosurgeryPAC fundraising rebounded, allowing the PAC to enjoy one of its most successful election cycles. Ninety-six percent of NeurosurgeryPAC-backed candidates won their general election bids, and the overall success rate — including both primary and general elections — was 90 percent. Continuing with our nonpartisan tradition, NeurosurgeryPAC supported an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, backing those candidates with a demonstrated track record in working collaboratively to bridge the political divide and address the problems we face with our health care system.

This bipartisan approach to political advocacy not only paid off at the ballot box but also in the halls of Congress, as neurosurgery achieved several significant policy victories, including:

- Mitigating steep Medicare payment cuts;
- Advancing legislation and regulations to streamline prior authorization;
- Increasing funding for biomedical research, graduate medical education and firearms injury prevention; and
- Extending telehealth flexibilities.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Turning the corner to 2023, I hope to help reinvigorate participation in NeurosurgeryPAC by increasing contributions and the number of neurosurgeons contributing to the PAC. To this end, your board is exploring a new campaign, “Why I Give.” Through this campaign, we hope to raise awareness about the PAC and create new opportunities to highlight neurosurgery’s health policy accomplishments and increase neurosurgeons’ participation in the political advocacy process. As neurosurgeons, it is our professional obligation to get involved and help improve the health care system. A life-long commitment to NeurosurgeryPAC is one critical way to meet this challenge.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the PAC board’s immediate past chair, **Robert F. Heary**, MD, FAANS, for his stellar job and tireless efforts over the years supporting NeurosurgeryPAC. His passion and commitment to growing the PAC have been second to none, and we are grateful for his service.

I am confident that together we can accomplish much, so please join me in continuing to support neurosurgery’s political advocacy efforts for the betterment of your practice, patients and the specialty.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Scibelli, MD, FAANS, Chair
NeurosurgeryPAC Board

# WHAT IS NEUROSURGERYPAC?

ESTABLISHED IN

**2005**

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF AANS

DIRECT CAMPAIGN

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**NONPARTISAN**

**CREATED IN 2005,** NeurosurgeryPAC is the political action committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. NeurosurgeryPAC's mission is simple: solicit voluntary contributions from neurosurgeons to support candidates for federal office who support neurosurgeons.

NeurosurgeryPAC does this by making direct campaign contributions to candidates for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives who are supportive of the issues important to neurosurgery. NeurosurgeryPAC is nonpartisan and does not base its decisions on party affiliation but instead focuses on the records and campaign pledges of the candidates.

# NEUROSURGERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS


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## Legislative Priorities

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons made significant strides in accomplishing their 2022 legislative and regulatory agenda, thus ensuring that neurological patients continue to have timely access to quality care.

### PROTECT PATIENTS' TIMELY ACCESS TO CARE

Bipartisan legislation to streamline prior authorization in the Medicare Advantage program — the ***Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*** (S. 3018 / H.R. 3173) — garnered overwhelming support from 380 members of Congress. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued proposed rules that mirror the provisions in this legislation. Compliance with Medicare's appropriate use criteria program for advanced diagnostic imaging was delayed indefinitely.

### FIX THE BROKEN MEDICAL LIABILITY SYSTEM

Legislation based on proven reforms that are in place in California and Texas — the ***Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive LawSuitS (ACCESS) Act*** (H.R. 9584) — was introduced. Additional liability protection for volunteers — the ***Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act*** (S. 2941 / H.R. 5239) — and legislation to protect providers from COVID-19-related lawsuits — the ***Coronavirus Provider Protection Act*** (H.R. 3021) — was considered.

### IMPROVE THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The ***Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*** (P.L. 117-328) extended funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for two years through fiscal year 2029. Medicaid and CHIP will now offer 12 months of continuous coverage for children to ensure that the 40 million children on Medicaid and CHIP have uninterrupted access to health care throughout the year.

### ALLEVIATE THE BURDENS OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

CMS took multiple steps to improve interoperability and reduce burdens associated with data sharing. To improve mental health among health care professionals, the ***Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*** was signed into law (P.L. 117-105).

### SUPPORT QUALITY RESIDENT TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Recognizing the need to ensure the availability of well-educated and trained physicians, the ***Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*** funded 200 additional Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME) positions and increased funding for the Children's Hospital GME. Additionally, legislation to add 14,000 Medicare-funded residency training positions and defer medical student loan interest during residency — the ***Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act*** (S. 834 / H.R 2256) and the ***Resident Education Deferred Interest Act*** (S. 3658 / H.R. 4122), respectively — achieved strong bipartisan support.

### CONTINUE PROGRESS WITH MEDICAL INNOVATION

Increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other federal agencies, whose research investments are responsible for incalculable medical breakthroughs, was included in the ***Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023***. The legislation also contains numerous FDA reforms, including measures to update the agency's accelerated approval pathway and increase diversity in clinical trials. Also included was the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation Act, establishing separate payments for certain non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

### CHAMPION FAIR REIMBURSEMENT

The ***Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*** mitigated steep Medicare cuts, forestalling 6.5% of an 8.5% payment cut in 2023. The bill also provided an additional 1.25% of relief to alleviate future cuts in 2024. The AANS and the CNS led two amicus brief initiatives in support of lawsuits challenging the process for resolving payment disputes between commercial health plans and providers under the ***No Surprises Act***. Rules issued by CMS created a de facto federal payment benchmark based on median in-network rates — which unfairly favors insurers when settling payment disputes. Physicians prevailed in the first lawsuit, and the court will issue its opinion in the second lawsuit in early 2023.

AANS members who are citizens of the United States and pay dues or have voting privileges may contribute to NeurosurgeryPAC, as may AANS candidate members. All contributions must be drawn on personal accounts and any corporate contributions to NeurosurgeryPAC will be used for administrative expenses and other activities permissible under federal law. Contributions are not tax-deductible. Federal law requires NeurosurgeryPAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and the name of the employer of every individual whose contributions exceed $200 in a calendar year.

# MEMBER GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

## MEMBER GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Money Raised in 2022 | **$212,254** |
| Money Disbursed in 2022 | **$247,000** |

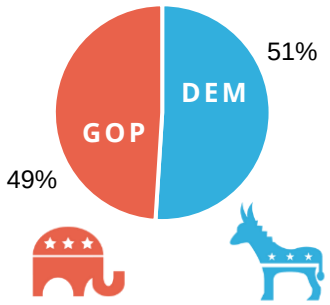
## NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| People/PACs who contributed $5,000 | **10 individuals and one PAC** |
| People who contributed $2,500 to $4,999 | **25 individuals** |
| People who contributed $1,000 to $2,499 | **56 individuals** |
| Average contribution | **$1,173** |

## BREAKDOWN OF GIVING BY PARTY

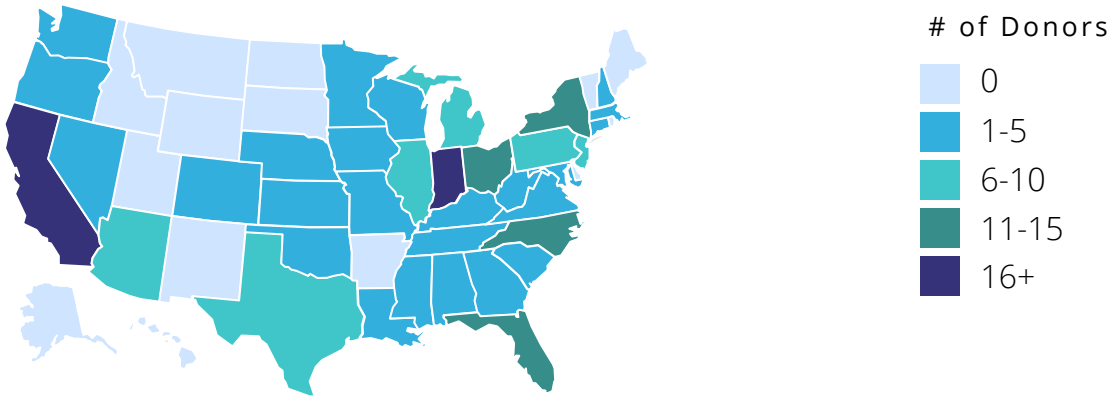
| **68 Candidates for Office** | |
|---|---|
| Democrat | **51%** |
| Republican | **49%** |

Breakdown of giving by party



# MEMBER GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

## Number of Participants by State




## Winners of Leibrock State Leadership Award

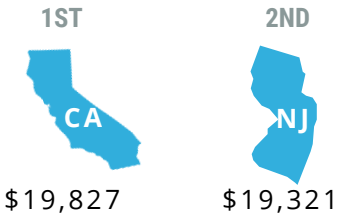
### TOP STATES BY MONEY RAISED IN CONTRIBUTIONS:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winner | **CALIFORNIA** | with | **$19,827** |
| Runner Up | **NEW JERSEY** | with | **$19,321** |

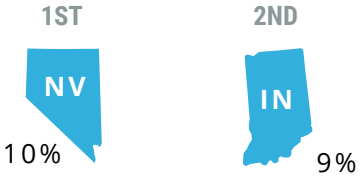
### TOP STATES BY PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winner | **NEVADA** | with | **10%** |
| Runner Up | **INDIANA** | with | **9%** |

Top states by:
$ raised in contributions:




% of participation:



# COMPETITIVE COMPARISONS

## NEUROSURGERYPAC COMPARED TO OTHER PHYSICIAN PACS

Coverage Dates: 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022

### NEUROSURGERYPAC

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$203,313** |
| Total Disbursements | **$247,000** |

### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$1,847,605** |
| Total Disbursements | **$2,827,000** |

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$1,126,426** |
| Total Disbursements | **$1,206,238** |

### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$351,932** |
| Total Disbursements | **$317,781** |

### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$273,734** |
| Total Disbursements | **$304,500** |

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SPECIALISTS

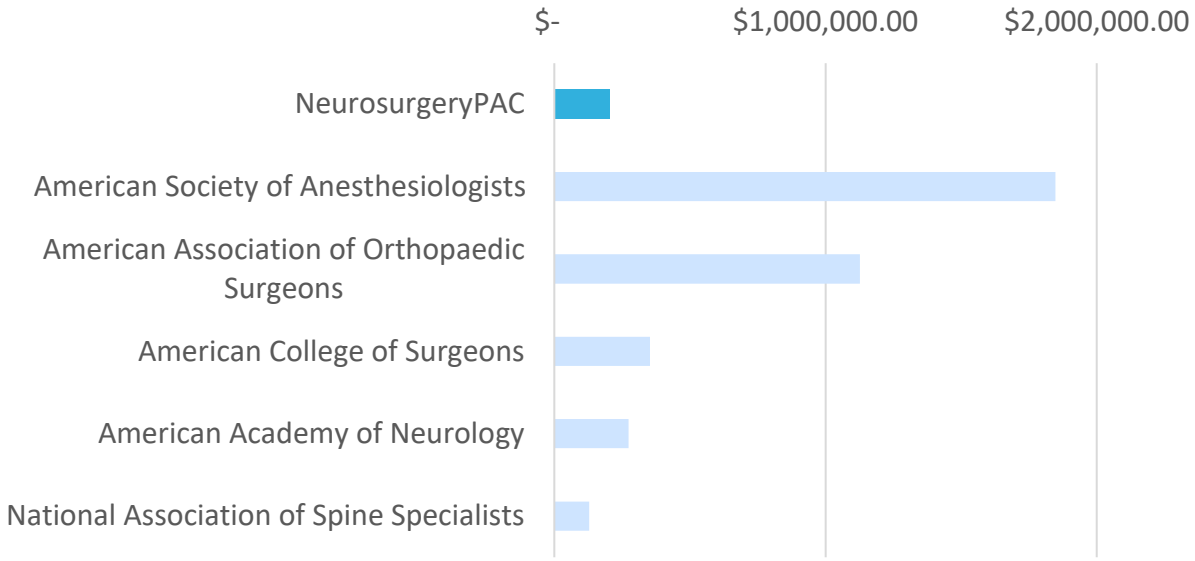
| | |
|---|---|
| Total Receipts | **$127,626** |
| Total Disbursements | **$139,000** |

Receipt and Disbursement Data from 2022 Year-End FEC Reports

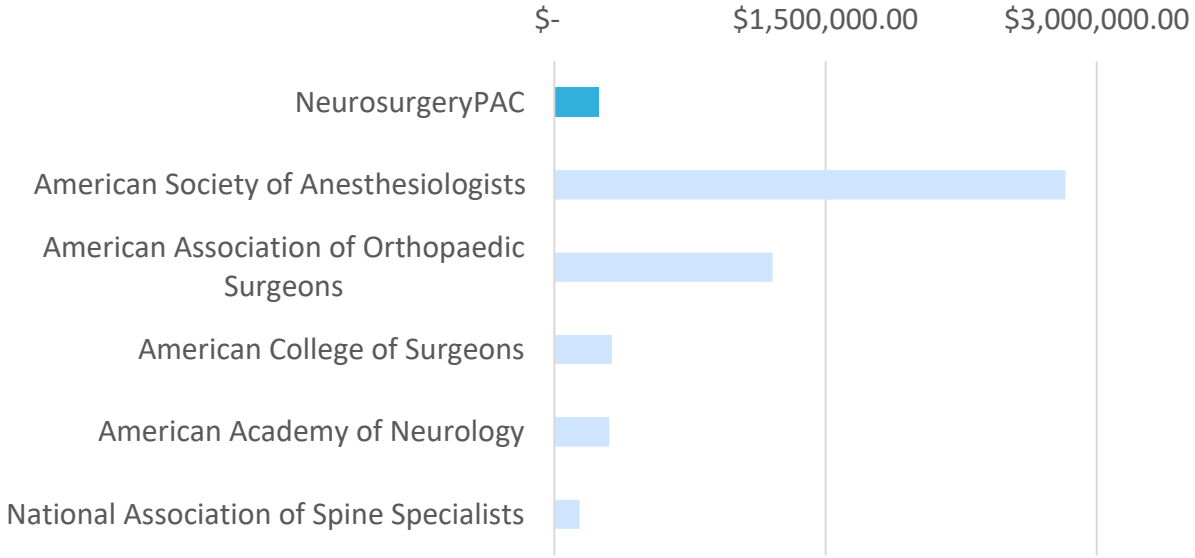
# COMPETITIVE COMPARISONS

## NEUROSURGERYPAC COMPARED TO OTHER PHYSICIAN PACS

### TOTAL RECEIPTS




### TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS



# NEUROSURGEONS IN ACTION

## TAKING NEUROSURGERY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Based on the generosity of our contributors, NeursurgeryPAC was able to participate in the following events for Senate and House candidates, both in-person and virtually.

Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-Calif.)
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.)
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.)
Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.)
Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.)
Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-Ind.)
Rep. Michael Burgess, MD (R-Texas)
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Calif.)
Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.)
House Candidate Mary Ann Contogiannis, MD (R-N.C.)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-Minn.)
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)
Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.)
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.)
Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.)
Rep. Neal Dunn, MD (R-Fla.)
Rep. Ron Estes (R-Kan.)
Rep. Drew Ferguson, DDS (R-Ga.)
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.)
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-Texas)
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.)
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.)
Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.)
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.)
Rep. Andy Harris, MD (R-Md.)
Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.)
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.)
Rep. Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.)
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.)
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.)
Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio)
House Candidate Kermit Jones, MD (D-Calif.)
Rep. Dave Joyce (R-Ohio)
Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-Pa.)
Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.)
Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.)
Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.)
Rep. Ann Kuster (D-N.H.)
Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Ill.)
Sen. Roger Marshall, MD (R-Kan.)
Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.)
House Candidate Richard McCormick, MD (R-Ga.)
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD (R-Iowa)
Rep. Joe Morelle (D-N.Y.)
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-N.C.)
Rep. Richard Neal (D-Mass.)
Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-Ariz.)
Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.)
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.)
Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-Calif.)
Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio)
Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.)
Rep. Kim Schrier, MD (D-Wash.)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.)
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.)
Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.)
Rep. Darren Soto (D-Fla.)
House Candidate Jennifer Strahan (R-Ga.)
Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.)
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-Mass.)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup, DPM, (R-Ohio)
Rep. Susan Wild (D-Pa.)

### Party Campaign Committees

Across the Aisle PAC
Healthcare Freedom Fund
New Dem Coalition Action Fund
PAC Unitatis
Republican Governance Group / Tuesday Group PAC
Republican Main Street Partnership PAC
Value in Electing Women (VIEW) PAC

# NEUROSURGEONS IN ACTION

## TAKING NEUROSURGERY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Ciara D. Harraher, MD, FAANS, and NeurosurgeryPAC vice-chair, Kenneth S. Blumenfeld, MD, FAANS, with Rep. Ami Bera, MD, (D-Calif.)

AANS president, Ann R. Stroink, MD, FAANS, with Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Ill.)

NeurosurgeryPAC board member, Brain R. Gantwerker, MD, FAANS, with Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD, (R-La.)

Washington Committee members John K. Ratliff, MD, FAANS, Luis Tumialán, MD, FAANS, and Joseph S. Cheng, MD, FAANS, advocating for neurosurgery on Capitol Hill.

Neurosurgeon Kristopher T. Kimmell, MD, FAANS, speaking with Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-Ind.), during a Surgical Care Coalition congressional briefing.

# NEUROSURGEONS IN ACTION

## TAKING NEUROSURGERY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Washington Committee member, Jason M. Schwalb, MD, advocating on Capitol Hill to prevent steep Medicare payment cuts.

Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) speaks to members of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine.

Leading the charge on prior authorization reform in the House of Representatives, Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.) meets with neurosurgeons.

Leading the charge on prior authorization reform in the Senate, Sen. Roger Marshall, MD, (R-Kan.) meets with members of the Regulatory Relief Coalition during its Week of Action.

Rep. Diana Harshbarger, PharmD, (R-Tenn.) meeting with specialty physicians.

House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee chair, Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) meets with specialty physicians about Medicare payment cuts and prior authorization reform.

# NEUROSURGEONS IN ACTION

## TAKING NEUROSURGERY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD, (R-Iowa) advocating for specialty physicians on Capitol Hill.

Senate Minority Whip john Thune (R-S.D.) speaks to members of the neurosurgery-led Regulatory Relief Coalition during its Week of Action.

# THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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- Capital Club - $5,000
- President's Circle - $2,500 to $4,999
- Platinum Circle Club - $1,000 to $2,499
- Gold Circle Club - $500 to $999
- Silver Circle Club - Up to $499

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NEUROSURGERYPAC, PLEASE VISIT:

https://www.aans.org/en/Advocacy/NeurosurgeryPAC

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