

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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May 25, 2017

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) support your efforts to expand access to affordable health insurance coverage for those Americans in financial need with your legislation, the Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act.

Eliminating the tax credit "subsidy cliff" for certain people above 400% of the poverty level and replacing this with a system that gradually phases out the health insurance premium subsidy tax credits as income increases makes sense. As such, the bill is consistent with our policy that the federal government should provide need-based financial assistance to help individuals obtain health insurance under the individual mandate.

The AANS and CNS understand that based on preliminary estimates the legislation would cost approximately \$9 billion over ten years, but at this point, no offset has been identified. Should an objectionable offset be incorporated as the bill progresses through the legislative process, we would need to revisit our support.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your bill. We will look forward to working with you on this and other important health policy issues that will ensure patients have timely access to care.

Sincerely,

Alex B. Valadka, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Alan M. Scarrow, MD, President
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