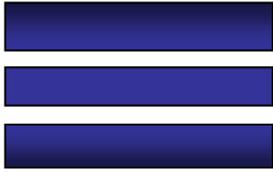


UPDATE



neurosurgery

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Neurosurgeons Commend Sens. Alexander and Murray for Bipartisan Health Care Efforts

Groups support legislation to improve our nation's health care system

Washington, DC—The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) applaud Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman **Lamar Alexander** (R-Tenn.) and Ranking Member **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.) for reaching a bipartisan agreement on legislation to improve our nation's health care system.

In their [letter endorsing](#) the bill, the AANS and CNS highlighted the need to continue the cost-sharing reduction subsidies to ensure that many of our country's most vulnerable patients maintain access to affordable health insurance. The groups also praised the bill for including provisions to enhance choice and flexibility. Improving the state waiver process will empower states to adopt innovative health plan designs, and allowing individuals of all ages to have the option to purchase catastrophic insurance plans will let patients select the health plan that best meets their needs.

The AANS and CNS also urged the Senators to address other pressing health care issues, including:

- Reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program;
- Expanding health savings accounts;
- Ensuring health plan network adequacy;
- Removing barriers to timely access to care;
- Adopting common-sense medical liability reforms;
- Repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB); and
- Increasing support for graduate medical education.

"America's neurosurgeons strongly support expanding access to affordable health insurance coverage, enhancing patient choice of insurance plans and providers, and maintaining reforms that redress a number of inexcusable insurance practices," said Ann R. Stroink, MD, FAANS, a neurosurgeon from Bloomington, Ill. and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. "Organized neurosurgery commends Senators Alexander and Murray for their leadership, and we stand ready to work with them to improve our health care system."

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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 or www.neurosurgeryblog.org.