

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons



Congress of  
Neurological  
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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*President*  
JOHN A. WILSON, MD  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

*President*  
BRIAN L. HOH, MD  
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February 10, 2021

The Honorable Lucy McBath  
United States House of Representatives  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2110 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: H.R. 66, the Comprehensive Access to Robust Insurance Now Guaranteed (CARING) for Kids Act**

Dear Representatives McBath and Buchanan:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery, representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we write to support your legislation, H.R. 66, the Comprehensive Access to Robust Insurance Now Guaranteed (CARING) for Kids Act.

As you are aware, your bill would permanently extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). With as many as 15% of children lacking health care coverage at the time, CHIP was created by a bipartisan coalition in Congress in 1997 to address a national health care crisis to cover uninsured children. Despite widespread support, CHIP remains a temporary program that requires reauthorization every few years, with its current authorization set to expire in 2028. This uncertainty is a constant threat to the wellbeing of innocent children, their parents and the providers who care for them. The possible interruption of crucial health care treatments can cause severe, unintended consequences.

Pediatric neurosurgeons have long been involved in the care of infants and children. Our members help children and families with some of the most serious medical conditions, including:

- Benign and malignant brain and spinal tumors
- Cerebral palsy
- Chiari malformation
- Concussion and traumatic brain injury
- Craniosynostosis and other craniofacial abnormalities
- Epilepsy and movement disorders
- Hydrocephalus; and
- Spina bifida

These and other pediatric neurologic disorders typically require families to incur significant medical expenses. Without stable health insurance coverage, the costs are financially prohibitive and may lead to unnecessary delays in care.

On behalf of the AANS and the CNS, we thank you for your continued work to ensure children have timely access to needed quality care. Your legislation would provide a permanent solution to ensure CHIP is on par with other federal health insurance programs and no longer subject to expiration or funding cliffs. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation, so please let us know if there is any further assistance we can provide.

Sincerely,



John A. Wilson, MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Brian L. Hoh, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons



Mark D. Krieger, MD, FAANS, Chair  
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Pediatric Neurological  
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