

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, *CEO*
5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone: 888-566-AANS
Fax: 847-378-0600
info@aans.org



American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

REGINA SHUPAK, *CEO*
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: 877-517-1CNS
FAX: 847-240-0804
info@cns.org

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

President
BRIAN L. HOH, MD
Gainesville, Florida

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
United States House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: H.R. 825, the Gun Violence Prevention Research Act

Dear Representative Maloney:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care and 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. 825, the Gun Violence Prevention Research Act.

As you are aware, your bill would authorize \$50 million in funding each fiscal year for the next five years for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to study gun violence. Firearm-related injuries are a significant public health problem that, according to the CDC, led to 39,566 fatalities in 2019. While Congress recently approved funds to conduct research on firearm injury and mortality prevention in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), legislation must be passed to ensure that additional funding is allocated.

Organized neurosurgery believes this research will ultimately provide the necessary data to help determine strategies for preventing tragic injuries and death from firearms, as unintentional injury was the number one cause of death in 2019 for all Americans aged one to 44. The development of common sense and evidence-based solutions to combat gun violence and firearms accidents in this country — which may have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic — will help prevent thousands of deaths every year.

Beyond the human toll from firearm injuries and death, according to the House Joint Economic Committee in 2019, it is estimated that gun violence costs the U.S. \$229 billion a year. This enormous burden on the economy represents employer costs, police and criminal justice responses, and, most importantly, health care expenses.

On behalf of the AANS and the CNS, we thank you for your continued work to ensure funding for gun violence research and prevention. 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



David Okonkwo, MD, PhD, Chair
AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma
And Critical Care



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

Staff Contact:

Adrienne Roberts Mortimer
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
AANS/CNS Washington Office
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20001
Email: amortimer@neurosurgery.org
Mobile: 703-254-9424