

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
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CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
JOHN A. WILSON, MD
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President
BRIAN L. HOH, MD
Gainesville, Florida

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Funding for National Concussion Surveillance System

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care, representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we write to support funding for the National Concussion Surveillance System. As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, we request that you appropriate **\$5 million to fund the National Concussion Surveillance System**, which was authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. Law 115-377).

As you may know, the Institute of Medicine-National Research Council Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth recommended that the CDC establish and oversee a national surveillance system to accurately determine the incidence of sports-related concussions, including those in youth ages 5 to 21. There is currently insufficient data to accurately estimate the incidence of sports-related concussions in youth and subpopulations of youth. Crucial data is also needed to capture all incidences of concussions due to falls, work-related injuries, domestic violence and recreational injuries across our population.

Neurosurgeons have long been involved in the diagnosis and care of individuals with brain injuries, and the specialty's neurotrauma experts are furthering knowledge on concussions through clinical and basic science research. Additionally, the profession has helped shape current guidelines for the evaluation and treatment of TBI and is actively involved in developing public policy related to TBI and concussions. Given the magnitude of the issue and the impact on society, neurosurgeons also work closely with the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation. ThinkFirst's educational programs aim to help people — especially those at high risk: children, teens and young adults — learn to reduce their risk for injury.

On behalf of the AANS and the CNS, we thank you for considering our request. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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



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



David O. Okonkwo, MD, PhD, Chair
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