

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, *Executive Director*
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
GANESH RAO, MD
Houston, Texas

President
CHRISTOPHER I. SHAFFREY, MD
Durham, North Carolina

October 9, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: S. Res. 329, Designating September 2019, as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for introducing S. Res. 329, designating September 2019, as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.” There is a great need to increase public awareness and research investments to improve outcomes for individuals suffering from a spinal cord injury. Hopefully, your resolution will focus more attention and accelerate progress towards new treatments, therapies, and rehabilitation.

As you are aware, more than 291,000 people in the United States, 42,000 of which are veterans, live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages. With approximately 17,730 new spinal cord injuries each year, half of which are under the age of 30 — the future of our country — more attention and funding must be paid to support clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis due to a spinal cord injury.

Years ago, our organizations founded the **ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation** (www.thinkfirst.org/), whose mission is to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education, research and advocacy, so we sincerely appreciate that your resolution commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers and people across the country who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with these devastating injuries. We also agree with you that a collaborative approach to spinal cord injury research will ultimately provide the pathway to new treatment options.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you on this and other important health policy issues.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Contact:

Adrienne Roberts Mortimer, Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
AANS/CNS Washington Office
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 610
Washington, D.C. 20001
Email: AMortimer@neurosurgery.org
Direct: 202-446-2029