June 17, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: S. 692, the Protect Medical Innovation Act

Dear Senators Toomey and Klobuchar,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to endorse S. 692, the Protect Medical Innovation Act. Neurosurgery is a medical specialty that is highly dependent on advances in medical technology. As such, repealing the medical device tax is among neurosurgery’s top legislative priorities.

Since its inception, the AANS and the CNS have long called for the repeal of the 2.3 percent medical device excise tax due to our concerns that the tax will adversely affect medical innovation and patient care. Because of medical technology, patients are living longer, healthier and more productive lives. Over the past three decades, rapid technological advances have helped increase life expectancy in the U.S., rates for major diseases have been reduced significantly, and America continues to be a leader in the development of new therapies and tools for treating deadly or debilitating neurologic conditions such as stroke, degenerative spine disease, brain aneurysms, chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson’s Disease, spinal cord injury, brain tumors and epilepsy.

Furthermore, it makes economic sense to repeal the medical device tax permanently. For example, according to a recent report, as many as 195,000 jobs may be lost due to the tax, either through layoffs or forgone jobs that would have been created.

Clearly, our health care system needs innovation to improve patient care and save lives. Unfortunately, this tax stifles innovation and reduces patient access to new lifesaving technologies. We, therefore, look forward to working with you to pass S. 692.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Staff Contact:
Katie O. Orrico, Director
AANS/CNS Washington Office
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20001
Direct: 202-446-2024
Email: korrico@neurosurgery.org