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Neurosurgeons Endorse Legislation Providing COVID-19 Pandemic Liability Protections

Bill would safeguard health care professionals from unnecessary risk of liability lawsuits

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) endorsed bipartisan legislation to provide health care professionals and the facilities in which they work protections from COVID-19-related lawsuits. Introduced by Reps. **Phil Roe**, MD, (R-Tenn.) and **Lou Correa** (D-Calif.), [H.R. 7059](#), the [Coronavirus Provider Protection Act](#), would ensure that providers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic can focus on helping patients without fear of getting drawn into unwarranted lawsuits.

Examples of increased liability risk that providers are confronting because of COVID-19 include:

- Practitioner shortages that have required providers to treat patients outside their general practice areas and prompted retired physicians to return to the workforce;
- Inadequate protective safety gear that could result in the inadvertent transmission of the virus;
- Lack of essential medical equipment, including ventilators, which may require the rationing of care;
- Inadequate testing leading to delayed or flawed diagnoses; and
- Delayed treatment of elective and non-COVID-19 medical treatments to save resources for coronavirus patients.

“Physicians who are so dedicated to preserving and protecting the health of the American public should not face unwarranted legal action for their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis,” said **Ann R. Stroink**, MD, FAANS, a practicing neurosurgeon from Bloomington, Illinois, and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee.

“Neurosurgeons are particularly concerned about being sued due to circumstances that are frequently beyond their control, such as office closures and delays in elective surgeries or procedures as a result of government directives,” she added.

Dr. Stroink concluded, “The AANS and the CNS thank Representatives Roe and Correa for their bipartisan efforts to advance targeted medical liability protections, and urge Congress to take swift action to pass H.R. 7059.”

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The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org, read our blog www.neurosurgeryblog.org, follow us on [Twitter](#) or connect with us on [Facebook](#).