

UPDATE



neurosurgery

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Ways and Means Committee Surprise Medical Bills Legislation Moving in the Right Direction

Neurosurgeons encouraged by the framework of the “Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act”

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) expressed appreciation for the efforts of Ways and Means Committee chair **Richard Neal** (D-Mass.) and ranking member **Kevin Brady** (R-Texas) to develop a bipartisan solution to end “surprise” medical bills.

“The time to end surprise medical bills is now,” said **Ann R. Stroink**, MD, FAANS, a practicing neurosurgeon from Bloomington, Illinois, and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee.

“However, Congress must implement a thoughtful and balanced approach that will protect patients from unanticipated medical bills for out-of-network care, while at the same time facilitating a process to quickly, efficiently and fairly resolve physician and health plan billing disputes,” she added.

Dr. Stroink concluded, “The Ways and Means Committee proposal is an improvement over other plans under consideration by the House of Representatives, and the AANS and CNS look forward to continuing to work with Congress to build on this foundation and pass legislation that will protect patients, diminish the market dominance of health plans, and help ensure that patients have timely access to the physician of their choice.”

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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](#).