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May 15, 2020

The Honorable Chris Pappas
U.S. House of Representatives
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBJECT: H.R. 6697, The Local Chamber, Tourism, and 501(c)(6) Protection Act of 2020

Dear Representative Pappas,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), we are pleased to support H.R. 6697, the Local Chamber, Tourism, and 501(c)(6) Protection Act of 2020.

As you know, your bill is designed to expand Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) eligibility to include 501(c)(6) organizations with 300 or fewer employees. This bill will provide crucial relief for organizations that may need to cut staff or scale back on essential services for their members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AANS, which is organized under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, was forced to cancel its 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting. Not only did this hamper our ability to deliver cutting-edge scientific and clinical education to our nation's neurosurgeons, but it also created a potential economic hardship as our association relies on significant revenue from our annual meeting to fund our organization. Nonprofit groups, including 501(c)(6) scientific and educational organizations, must continue to have the resources to meet our education missions. If adopted, your legislation will allow the AANS to continue to promote the highest quality of patient care and advance the specialty of neurological surgery — during this unprecedented time and for the future.

On behalf of the AANS, I applaud you for introducing the Local Chamber, Tourism, and 501(c)(6) Protection Act of 2020 and thank you for your leadership in expanding PPP eligibility. We look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward in any future COVID-19 relief package.

Sincerely,

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

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