

UPDATE

neurosurgery

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Neurosurgery Groups Endorse Legislation to Mitigate Steep Medicare Cuts in 2022

The Supporting Medicare Providers Act would extend the 2021 3.75% payment adjustment into next year

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) endorsed the Supporting Medicare Providers Act (H.R. 6020), introduced by Reps. **Ami Bera**, MD, (D-Calif.) and **Larry Bucshon**, MD, (R-Ind.). If adopted, this legislation would help mitigate steep Medicare payment cuts in 2022.

Neurosurgical care faces overall payment cuts of nearly 10% at a time when the nation’s health care system continues to be stressed by the pandemic. The reductions are partly driven by the expiration of the 3.75% payment adjustment included in last year’s Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. In addition, the moratorium on the 2% Medicare sequestration pay cuts expires at the end of this year, and a 4% Medicare payment cut triggered by the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 will also take effect in 2022. Congressional action is therefore needed to override these devastating cuts.

“America’s neurosurgeons appreciate the leadership of Reps. Bera and Bucshon for their tireless efforts to prevent these harmful cuts,” said **John K. Ratliff**, MD, FAANS, a practicing neurosurgeon at Stanford University and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. “Millions of seniors rely on the Medicare program, and Congress must take action to ensure it remains viable for those who need it the most,” Dr. Ratliff added.

While this temporary measure does not address the ongoing structural problems with the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, it would provide some payment stability as physician practices emerge from the COVID-19 public health emergency, and practice costs continue to rise.

“Congress needs to address long-term challenges associated with Medicare payment policy, especially the budget neutrality requirements that continue to drive these steep cuts for many physician specialties, including neurosurgery. This temporary measure would help buy some more time for these policy conversations to occur,” Dr. Ratliff concluded.

As founding members of the [Surgical Care Coalition](#), the AANS and the CNS are working to stop these drastic Medicare payment cuts to surgical care.

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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](#).