

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, *Executive Director*  
5550 Meadowbrook Drive  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
Phone: 888-566-AANS  
Fax: 847-378-0600  
info@aans.org



American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons



Congress of  
Neurological  
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

REGINA SHUPAK, *CEO*  
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 877-517-1CNS  
FAX: 847-240-0804  
info@cns.org

*President*  
CHRISTOPHER I. SHAFFREY, MD  
Durham, North Carolina

*President*  
GANESH RAO, MD  
Houston, Texas

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer  
United States House of Representatives  
124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Subject: Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act of 2019

Dear Representative Finkenauer,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we are writing to support your legislation, the "Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act." This bill would improve the accuracy of data used to calculate Medicare's practice expense and physician work geographic practice cost indexes (GPCIs).

The AANS and the CNS have long supported efforts to ensure that physicians of all specialties and in all regions of the country are fairly reimbursed for the medical services they deliver to Medicare beneficiaries, and your legislation would improve payments to neurosurgeons practicing in rural areas. If adopted, we are confident that this bill would help improve access to Medicare services provided to our rural patients.

We are also supporting this bill because it makes clear that higher payments to physicians in low GPCI areas would not come at the expense of physicians in higher GPCI areas. Our continued support for the legislation is predicated on the fact that these payment increases will not be applied in a budget neutral manner, so the proposal is fair to all physicians, regardless of where they practice.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you on this and other important health policy issues.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

**Contact:**

Katie O. Orrico, Director  
AANS/CNS Washington Office  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 610  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
korrigo@neurosurgery.org  
Direct Phone: 202-446-2024