

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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March 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: Neurosurgery Support for S. 864, Ellie's Law

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to offer our support of your legislation, S. 864, Ellie's Law.

An estimated six million people in the United States, or one in 50 people, have an unruptured brain aneurysm. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people in the U.S. suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, 40 percent of which are fatal. Of those who survive, about 66 percent suffer some permanent neurological deficit. Additionally, the economic toll on survivors and their caretakers is significant, with combined lost wages approximating \$138 million per year. Despite these startling statistics, the federal government spends only about \$5 million per year on brain aneurysm research, or 83 cents per American afflicted with the disease each year. Notwithstanding its widespread prevalence, the federal funding for brain aneurysm research is almost non-existent.

Importantly, Ellie's Law would authorize additional funding for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to specifically further our knowledge and understanding of brain aneurysms and how to effectively manage and treat this condition.

Organized neurosurgery is very concerned about the current lack of federal funding devoted to brain aneurysm research, specifically those projects focused on prevention, detection, treatment and rehabilitation. We look forward to assisting in your efforts to pass this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President
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