

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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ALAN M. SCARROW, MD
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November 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: 21st Century Cures Legislation

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are writing to **support passage of the 21st Century Cures** legislation. As you are aware, this important legislation provides significant investments to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of new cures and treatments for all Americans.

Of particular importance to organized neurosurgery is the \$4.8 billion for essential programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), especially the funds dedicated to the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. This ground-breaking program will revolutionize our understanding of the human brain and produce new ways to treat and cure neurologic disorders. Additionally, the inclusion of \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will ensure that promising and innovative technology is more rapidly available for our patients.

We also appreciate the inclusion of several provisions designed to facilitate the exchange of clinical outcomes data between electronic health record (EHR) technologies and "clinician-led clinical data registries." These sections of the bill will promote and facilitate interoperability of clinical data and prevent EHR vendors from blocking the transmission of such data to third parties — including clinician-led clinical data registries — for the betterment of patient care.

Finally, we are pleased that the legislation includes \$1 billion for states to prevent opioid abuse and provide needed treatment for those suffering from this public health crisis.

Thanks to you and all those that worked tirelessly to make this final vote a reality. As Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) has said, "We're closing in on what's truly a once-in-a-generation, transformational opportunity to change the way we treat disease."

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Boop, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Alan M. Scarrow, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons