

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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

*President*  
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Houston, Texas

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind  
United States House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
United States House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Peters  
United States House of Representatives  
2338 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
United States House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: H.R. 2207, the Protect Medical Innovation Act**

Dear Reps. Kind, Walorski, Peters and Hudson,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to endorse H.R. 2207, the Protect Medical Innovation Act. Neurosurgery is a medical specialty that is highly dependent on advances in medical technology. As such, repealing the medical device tax is among neurosurgery's top legislative priorities.

Since its inception, the AANS and the CNS have long called for the repeal of the 2.3 percent medical device excise tax due to our concerns that the tax will adversely affect medical innovation and patient care. Because of medical technology, patients are living longer, healthier and more productive lives. Over the past three decades, rapid technological advances have helped increase life expectancy in the U.S., rates for major diseases have been reduced significantly, and America continues to be a leader in the development of new therapies and tools for treating deadly or debilitating neurologic conditions such as stroke, degenerative spine disease, brain aneurysms, chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's Disease, spinal cord injury, brain tumors and epilepsy.

Furthermore, it makes economic sense to repeal the medical device tax permanently. For example, according to a recent report, as many as 195,000 jobs may be lost due to the tax, either through layoffs or forgone jobs that would have been created.

Clearly, our health care system needs innovation to improve patient care and save lives. Unfortunately, this tax stifles innovation and reduces patient access to new lifesaving technologies. We, therefore, look forward to working with you to develop permanent policy solutions that better support medical innovation and increase treatment options for our patients.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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