

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*

GANESH RAO, MD  
Houston, Texas

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

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Toomey  
United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Subject: S. 692, the Protect Medical Innovation Act**

Dear Senators Toomey and Klobuchar,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to endorse S. 692, 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 pass S. 692.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

**Staff Contact:**

Katie O. Orrico, Director  
AANS/CNS Washington Office  
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 610  
Washington, DC 20001  
Direct: 202-446-2024  
Email: korrnico@neurosurgery.org