

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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President
CHRISTOPHER I. SHAFFREY, MD
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President
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June 17, 2019

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBJECT: H.R. 280, The Concussion Awareness and Education Act of 2019

Dear Representative Beatty,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we would like to express our support for H.R. 280, the Concussion Awareness and Education Act of 2019. There is an urgent need to increase awareness and knowledge regarding sports- and recreation-related concussions and to collect much-needed data surrounding these injuries. Your legislation will go a long way towards addressing these crucial efforts.

As you are aware, every year, there are approximately 1.6 to 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related traumatic brain injuries, including concussions and other head injuries. These concussion injuries are often either under-reported or not reported at all. Created by your bill, the establishment of a national system to accurately determine, collect and report on the incidence of these injuries and the research to follow will help keep our youth safe, whether on the playground or the playing field.

Your legislation will also provide more support for educational and awareness efforts, data collection, and coordination and collaboration at a national level that will enhance public awareness and prevention of concussions. We appreciate that you recognize that we must also change the current culture surrounding concussions among our youth to bring about needed change.

We would also like to take this opportunity to make you aware of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation. Founded by the AANS and the CNS, ThinkFirst's mission is to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education, research and advocacy. The ThinkFirst educational programs are aimed at helping people — especially those at high risk: children, teens and young adults — learn to reduce their risk for injury. For more information about the foundation's programs visit www.thinkfirst.org.

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

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