

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF
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President

ALEX B. VALADKA, MD
Richmond, Virginia

President

ALAN M. SCARROW, MD
Springfield, Missouri

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schatz, Wicker, Cochran, Cardin, Thune and Warner:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we commend you for introducing S. 1016, the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act. We support efforts to improve the availability this well-established and expanding service delivery method for Medicare beneficiaries.

If enacted, this bipartisan legislation will expand telehealth services in Medicare by removing outdated restrictions, improve care outcomes, make it easier for patients to connect with their health care providers, and help cut costs for patients and providers. We believe that telehealth is a critical expansion of access to high-quality neurosurgical services for patients across the country, both in rural and urban areas. As you are aware, according to studies, telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) have been shown to improve care and patient satisfaction while reducing costs. Additionally, the AANS and CNS strongly support the provision that lifts restrictions for the purposes of acute stroke evaluation. The use of "telestroke" has proven highly effective in improving patient access to quality stroke care.

The CONNECT for Health Act is a bipartisan approach to increase the use of telehealth and RPM in Medicare. We thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and look forward to with you on this legislation as it moves forward through the legislative process. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Alex B. Valadka, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

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

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