

UPDATE



neurosurgery

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Senate Finance Health Subcommittee Holds Critical Hearing on Medical Device Tax

Neurosurgeons Urge Congress to Repeal the Device Tax

Washington, DC – The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) commend the Health Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance for holding a [hearing](#) on the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation and patients. This is a critical step to repealing this detrimental tax.

Created by the Affordable Care Act, the medical device tax is a 2.3 percent excise tax that applies to the gross sales of medical device products. This tax imposes over \$30 billion in new taxes and is adversely affecting medical innovation and patient care.

AANS president, Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, noted, “Repealing the medical device tax is among neurosurgery’s top [legislative priorities](#) and we applaud the bipartisan efforts of Congress to abolish this arbitrary tax, which is ill-advised and ultimately will negatively impacts our patients.”

According to a recent [study](#) published by the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), as many as 195,000 jobs may be lost due to the tax, either through layoffs or forgone jobs that would have been created.

“Our health care system needs innovation to improve patient care and save lives. Instead, this tax stifles innovation and reduces patient access to new lifesaving technologies,” said CNS president, Nathan R. Selden, MD.

The AANS and CNS have endorsed both [S. 149](#), the “Medical Device Access and Innovation Protection Act,” and [H.R. 160](#), the “Protect Medical Innovation Act,” and look forward to working with the members of the Senate Finance Committee to develop policy solutions to better support medical innovation and increase treatment options for our patients.

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The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 8,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org or www.neurosurgeryblog.org.