

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF
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President

WILLIAM T. COULDWELL, MD PHD
Salt Lake City, Utah

President

ALI R. REZAI, MD
Columbus, Ohio

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson
U.S. House of Representatives
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Blackburn and Matheson:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to support H.R. 1733, the "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2013," and extend our offer to help advance this important legislation.

As you know, your bill is designed to provide liability protections to health professionals, including physicians, who volunteer to help victims of federally-declared disasters. Swift and timely medical response in a disaster can greatly decrease loss of life and improve outcomes for patients who desperately need care.

While neurosurgeons have a long history of stepping forward to assist disaster victims, medical volunteers are often turned away due to inconsistent Good Samaritan laws, as well as confusion and uncertainty about the application of these laws. Sadly, this lack of uniformity has greatly hindered the ability of volunteer health professionals to provide care, and in many cases, physicians could not provide these critical services -- even if they wanted to -- due to lack of liability protections. Your legislation will help ensure that neurosurgeons who volunteer their services in future disasters will not face similar uncertainties, thereby allowing them to focus on providing aid to victims.

We applaud you for introducing the "Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2013" and thank you for your leadership in recognizing the need for a federal solution to ensure protection for volunteer health professionals. We look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

William T. Couldwell, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ali R. Rezai, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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