

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*  
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STEVEN N. KALKANIS, MD  
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March 18, 2020

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: H.R. 6283, The Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2020**

Dear Representatives Ruiz and Bucshon:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to support H.R. 6283, the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2020, and extend our offer to help advance this critical legislation.

As you know, your bill is designed to provide professional liability protections to health professionals, including physicians, who volunteer to assist victims of federally-declared disasters. Swift and timely medical response in a disaster can significantly decrease the 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 hindered the ability of volunteer health professionals to provide care. In many cases, physicians could not offer these critical services — even if they wanted to — due to a 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 2020 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, especially during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Steven N. Kalkanis, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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