

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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November 1, 2021

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**SUBJECT: H.R. 5435, the Bringing Regulatory Advances Into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act**

Dear Representative Blumenauer,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to offer our support of your legislation, H.R. 5435, the Bringing Regulatory Advances Into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act.

As you know, nearly one in five adults in the United States (more than 50 million) live with a mental illness and neuropsychiatric disorders are the leading cause of disability and premature death. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated these illnesses. Additionally, brain disorders, injuries, and diseases are estimated to cost the U.S. more than \$1.5 trillion a year and cause tremendous financial and personal hardships to patients and their families. Despite these alarming statistics, treatments that target the brain and central nervous system, including those conditions with few or no approved treatments, take longer to develop and are less likely to be approved than treatments for other disease areas.

We appreciate that your legislation would authorize \$25 million and direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence to coordinate activities within the FDA to create a more collaborative and innovative process for developing these crucial treatments and cures.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to assisting you in moving the Brain Act forward.

Sincerely,

Regis W. Haid, Jr., MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Nicholas C. Bambakidis, MD, President  
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