

UPDATE

neurosurgery

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Neurosurgeons Release 2023 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

Priorities include prior authorization reform, health care consolidation, GME funding and Medicare improvements.

Washington, DC—Today, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) released their [2023 legislative and regulatory agenda](#), including health policy action items neurosurgeons plan to advance with Congress and the Biden Administration. The neurosurgical societies are pursuing the following priorities:

- **Protect patients’ timely access to care** by reforming prior authorization and repealing Medicare’s appropriate use criteria program for advanced diagnostic imaging.
- **Support quality resident training and education** by increasing the number of Medicare-funded residency positions and preserving the ability of surgeons to maximize education and training opportunities within the profession’s current regulatory structures.
- **Champion fair reimbursement** by improving the Medicare physician payment system — including providing an annual inflationary payment update and improving the value-based care programs — following the clear language of the *No Surprises Act* and implementing a fair process for resolving provider and health plan payment disputes, permanently expanding telehealth flexibilities and closing the gap in payments between Medicaid and private insurers to reduce access to care disparities.
- **Improve competition in the health care system** by increasing scrutiny of hospital and other health care consolidation, removing restrictions on physician ownership of hospitals and other ancillary services, establishing network adequacy standards and broadening health insurance coverage options.
- **Fix the broken medical liability system** by adopting proven reforms that are in place in California and Texas and other innovative solutions.
- **Alleviate the burdens of electronic health records (EHRs)** by achieving interoperability, preventing data blocking, reducing unnecessary data entry and improving the functionality of EHR systems to enhance, not hinder, the delivery of medical care.
- **Continue progress with medical innovation** by prioritizing funding for the National Institutes of Health, pioneering medical technology and life-saving therapies by streamlining the Food and Drug Administration’s approval processes and expanding Medicare coverage of new technology.

“The AANS and the CNS will continue to encourage policymakers to work together to find bipartisan solutions for our nation’s top health care issues to ensure that our patients have timely access to high-quality, equitable neurosurgical care,” said **Russell R. Lonser, MD, FAANS**, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at The Ohio State University and chair of the AANS/CNS Washington Committee. “We look forward to working with Congress and the Biden Administration to advance sound health care policy for the betterment of our patients and profession.”

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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 12,000 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.neurosurgery.org.