

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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BRIAN L. HOH, MD
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October 30, 2020

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
1727 Longworth 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: AANS and CNS Endorsement of the Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act

Dear Representatives Bera and Bucshon,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we are pleased to endorse your legislation, the "Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act."

Next year, neurosurgeons face overall payment cuts of at least 7% at a time when the nation's health care system is already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are very concerned that cuts of this magnitude may undermine patient access to neurosurgical care. According to a recent survey, neurosurgical practices face severe financial distress, and this is *before* the CMS cuts take effect. The survey found that:

- More than one-half (54%) of respondents are concerned that they could be forced to shut down their practice, limiting choice and access to neurosurgical care;
- Three-quarters (74%) of neurosurgeons are concerned about the finances of their practice, and to keep the doors open, 38% have cut their own salary, and one-quarter (24%) have taken on debt as a result of COVID-19; and
- In the face of declining revenues, 86% of respondents are worried that they will have to cut employee's salaries and 76% fear that they may have to permanently layoff employees.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in moving forward with legislation to ensure that physicians are held harmless from steep Medicare payment cuts in 2021 and 2022, and we look forward to working with you to get this across the finish line this year.

Sincerely,

John A. Wilson, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Brian L. Hoh, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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