

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, CEO  
5550 Meadowbrook Drive  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
Phone: 888-566-AANS  
Fax: 847-378-0600  
info@aans.org



American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons



Congress of  
Neurological  
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

REGINA SHUPAK, CEO  
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 877-517-1CNS  
FAX: 847-240-0804  
info@cns.org

President  
JOHN A. WILSON, MD  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

President  
BRIAN L. HOH, MD  
Gainesville, Florida

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Yvette Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**SUBJECT:** Neurosurgery Support for H.R. 1553, Ellie's Law

Dear Representative Clarke,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to offer our support of your legislation, H.R. 1553, Ellie's Law.

As you know, an estimated 6.5 million people in the United States, or one in 50 people, have an unruptured brain aneurysm. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people in the U.S. suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, 50 percent of which are fatal. Of those who survive, about 66 percent suffer some permanent neurological deficit. Additionally, the economic toll on survivors, their caretakers and the health care community is significant, with the direct cost to patients reaching approximately \$1.4 billion. Shockingly, this amount does not reflect indirect costs such as travel, food, childcare or wage losses for patients and caretakers. Despite these startling statistics, the federal government spends only \$2.08 per American afflicted with the disease each year. Notwithstanding its widespread prevalence, the federal funding for brain aneurysm research is almost non-existent.

Importantly, Ellie's Law would authorize \$10 million in funding for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to further our knowledge and understanding of brain aneurysms and how to manage and treat this condition effectively.

Organized neurosurgery is very concerned about the current lack of federal funding devoted to brain aneurysm research, particularly those initiatives focused on prevention, detection, treatment and rehabilitation. We look forward to assisting in your efforts to pass this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

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

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

**Washington Office Contact:**

Adrienne R. Mortimer  
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs  
AANS/CNS Washington Office  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 610  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Cell: 703-254-9424  
Emil: [amortimer@neurosurgery.org](mailto:amortimer@neurosurgery.org)