

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
JOHN A. WILSON, MD
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President
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May 29, 2020

The Honorable David P. Roe
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa
U.S. House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 202515

Subject: H.R. 7059, the Coronavirus Provider Protection Act

Dear Representatives Roe and Correa,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we enthusiastically endorse H.R. 7059, the Coronavirus Provider Protection Act. Your legislation would ensure that health care professionals on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic can focus on helping patients without the fear of getting drawn into unwarranted lawsuits.

Examples of increased liability risk that providers are confronting because of COVID-19 include:

- Practitioner shortages that have required providers to treat patients outside their general practice areas and prompted retired physicians to return to the workforce;
- Inadequate protective safety gear that could result in the inadvertent transmission of the virus;
- Lack of essential medical equipment, including ventilators, which may require the rationing of care;
- Inadequate testing leading to delayed or flawed diagnoses; and
- Delayed treatment of elective and non-COVID-19 medical treatments to save resources for coronavirus patients.

We appreciate that your legislation recognizes that physicians who are so dedicated to preserving and protecting the health of the American public should not face unwarranted legal action for their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Neurosurgeons are particularly concerned about being sued due to circumstances that are frequently beyond their control, such as office closures and delays in elective surgeries or procedures as a result of government directives.

The AANS and the CNS thank you for your bipartisan efforts to advance these targeted medical liability protections. We look forward to working with you in urging Congress to take swift action to pass H.R. 7059.

Sincerely,

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

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

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