

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF
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President

A. JOHN POPP, MD
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President

VINCENT C. TRAYNELIS, MD
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

March 26, 2004

The Honorable James Greenwood
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Greenwood,

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care, applaud your leadership in sponsoring the Trauma Research and Access to Urgent Medical Attention (TRAUMA) Act of 2004, which reauthorizes federal grants to states for the purpose of planning, implementing and developing statewide trauma care systems. Each year, more than 2 million Americans suffer from brain and spinal injuries and prompt and efficient medical attention is essential for minimizing death or permanent disability from these types of injuries. This Act will not only help facilitate the creation of trauma systems that will be able to more quickly identify and treat trauma victims, but will also increase funding for trauma research, therefore enhancing a physician's ability to treat these patients in the future.

Perhaps more than any other time, significant funding for trauma systems is essential. As you know, emergency preparedness is a crucial element for effectively responding to acts of terror and other possible mass casualty events and funding for trauma care systems planning and development will complement the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security by ensuring that all states have the needed resources to develop and implement the trauma care system plans that are such an integral component of our Nation's public health infrastructure and the ability to respond to emergencies in our communities.

Your continued leadership in recognizing the importance of trauma care in saving lives and helping victims avoid permanent disabilities is greatly appreciated by all neurosurgeons in the country. If we can be of further assistance in working toward the passage of this important legislation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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

Vincent C. Traynelis, MD, President
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