



TAKE ACTION!

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Grassroots Action Alert

HEALTHCARE REFORM DEBATE HEATS UP: CONTACT CONGRESS TODAY!

STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION

Within the next few weeks, lawmakers will likely bring legislation, which would overhaul the nation's healthcare system, to the floor of both houses of Congress. As lawmakers begin the challenging task of melding five pieces of rival healthcare reform proposals into one (two bills in the Senate and three in the House), the AANS and CNS continue to make our voice heard in Washington through numerous communications channels to ensure this legislation reflects our views. ***The final chapter on healthcare reform is far from written and neurosurgeons have an opportunity to ensure that the healthcare reform legislation works for doctors and patients alike!***

NEUROSURGEONS MUST SPEAK OUT ABOUT REFORM

The AANS and CNS strongly support reforming our nation's healthcare system and we believe that Congress should enact a carefully targeted set of reforms that are based on organized medicine's longstanding principles and policies. Healthcare reform must:

- Expand health insurance coverage to the uninsured;
- Protect the sacred relationship between patients and their physicians, without interference by insurance companies or the government;
- Provide affordable health insurance for all through a choice of plans, but not include a public health insurance option, which will lead to a single-payer, government run healthcare system;
- Eliminate denials for pre-existing conditions;
- Ease the crushing weight of medical liability, which will ensure patient access to care and help curb defensive medicine and bring down healthcare costs;
- Recognize the looming physician workforce shortages in all specialties, not just primary care;
- Ensure that patients have the right to choose their doctor, to have direct access to specialty care and to enter into fee agreements with their physician;
- Repeal the Medicare physician payment system (the sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula), which harms seniors' access to care;
- Refrain from financing increased payments for primary care by either across-the-board cuts to all other physicians or through other mechanisms by which the government can arbitrarily reduce reimbursement or limit treatment options for valuable, life-saving specialty care;



- Promote quality, but the determination of quality medical care must be made by the profession of medicine, not by the government;
- Continue to advance medical innovation; and
- Protect patient-centered healthcare by allowing physicians to own and operate office-based imaging equipment, ambulatory surgery centers and specialty hospitals.

TAKE ACTION NOW

The AANS and CNS are working hard on your behalf to prevail upon Congress to adopt a more measured healthcare reform bill that reflects organized neurosurgery's principles. But we also need **your help** to make our elected officials understand our concerns and position on the issues.

WE NEED YOU TO:

1. **Write** a letter to your Senators, Representative and President Obama
2. **Meet** with Your Senators and Representative in the District Office. To get your elected officials' contact information go to the AANS/CNS Legislative Action Center:
<http://capwiz.com/noc/home/>
 - Enter your zip code and click "Go"
 - Click on "Info" under one of your elected official's picture
 - Click on the "Contact" Tab to get your elected official's local district office contact information
 - Hit the "back" arrow on your web browser to select another official's contact information
3. **Call** your Senators and Representative in the District Office
4. **Send** an email to your Senators, Representative and President Obama. To be connected to your elected officials and access a sample letter that you can tailor to fit your own personal information go to: <http://capwiz.com/noc/issues/alert/?alertid=13903351>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about healthcare reform can be found on the AANS and CNS websites at:

http://www.aans.org/legislative/aans/Neuro_HealthCareReform.asp

<http://www.cns.org/advocacy/wc/nsHealthcareReform.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Katie O. Orrico, Director of the AANS/CNS Washington Office at korrigo@neurosurgery.org or 202-446-2024.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!

