

UPDATE

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Neurosurgeons Join National Coalition That's Focused on Preserving the Practice of Medicine and the Patient-Physician Relationship

(Washington, DC) –Faced with federal legislation that will permanently damage the world's best medical care, the [American Association of Neurological Surgeons](#) (AANS) and the [Congress of Neurological Surgeons](#) (CNS) have joined The Coalition of State Medical and National Specialty Societies to preserve the practice of medicine and the patient-physician relationship. The coalition has 11 charter group members that represent more than 70,000 physicians and those numbers are expected to grow.

Troy M. Tippett, MD, President of the AANS, says that the most critical issue that requires immediate action is healthcare reform, and the coalition is calling on every American patient and physician to contact members of the U.S. House of Representatives to urge them to oppose the Senate version of the health reform bill that they'll consider in the coming days. Dr. Tippett explains, "This bill lays the foundation for government-controlled health care." The coalition also sent a [letter](#) on March 4, 2010, asking congressional leaders to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) – which serves as the basis for Medicare payment for physicians – because of the disastrous effects it's having on patient access to care.

CNS President **Gerald E. Rodts, MD**, states that coalition members believe, "We shouldn't be talking about an expanded role for government in health care when the government programs we already have are unsustainable. The majority of patients and practicing physicians in this country do not support the current health reform legislation and want Congress to adopt a more narrowly focused, bipartisan bill -- a message we've been advocating on behalf of our patients for quite some time now."

In terms of solutions, the coalition's mission is based on three core principles, including:

- The right for patients and their physicians to privately contract without penalty and without the government or other third party interference. The coalition refers to this as a "touchstone of American freedom and liberty."
- The determination of the quality of medical care must be made by the profession of medicine – not by the government or other third party payers.
- Medical liability reform that's based on proven policies is an essential part of any health care reform. The coalition believes this will ensure that all patients have access to quality, affordable health care.

The coalition currently includes: the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the Medical Association of Georgia, the Florida Medical Association, the Kansas Medical Society, Medical Society of New Jersey, the South Carolina Medical Association, the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Society of General Surgeons, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

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The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), founded in 1931, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent approximately 7,600 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit www.aans.org or www.cns.org.