

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
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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Submitted via: Health_Tax_Taskforce@finance.senate.gov

Subject: Health Tax Taskforce Comments

Dear Senators Toomey and Casey,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the medical device excise tax to the health tax taskforce examining temporary tax provisions. Neurosurgery is a medical specialty that is highly dependent on advances in medical technology. As such, repealing the medical device tax is among neurosurgery's top legislative priorities.

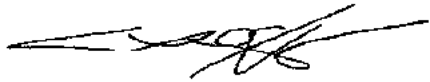
Since its inception, the AANS and the CNS have long called for the repeal of the 2.3 percent medical device excise tax due to our concerns that the tax will adversely affect medical innovation and patient care. Because of medical technology, patients are living longer, healthier and more productive lives. Over the past three decades, rapid technological advances have helped increase life expectancy in the U.S., rates for major diseases have been reduced significantly, and America continues to be a leader in the development of new therapies and tools for treating deadly or debilitating neurologic conditions such as stroke, degenerative spine disease, brain aneurysms, chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's Disease, spinal cord injury, brain tumors and epilepsy.

Furthermore, it makes economic sense to repeal the medical device tax permanently. For example, according to a recent report, as many as 195,000 jobs may be lost due to the tax, either through layoffs or forgone jobs that would have been created.

Clearly, our health care system needs innovation to improve patient care and save lives. Unfortunately, this tax stifles innovation and reduces patient access to new lifesaving technologies. The AANS and the CNS agree with Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden that it is "time for Congress to end its bad habit of waiting until the last minute to extend temporary tax policy" and that extending "tax incentives for a year or two at a time is no way to craft public policy."

We, therefore, look forward to working with you to develop permanent policy solutions that better support medical innovation and increase treatment options for our patients.

Sincerely,



Christopher I. Shaffrey, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Ganesh Rao, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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