

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, *Executive Director*  
5550 Meadowbrook Drive  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
Phone: 888-566-AANS  
Fax: 847-378-0600  
info@aans.org



American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons



Congress of  
Neurological  
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

REGINA SHUPAK, *CEO*  
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 877-517-1CNS  
FAX: 847-240-0804  
info@1CNS.org

*President*  
SHELLY D. TIMMONS, MD, PHD  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

*President*  
GANESH RAO, MD  
Houston, Texas

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**SUBJECT:** Neurosurgery Support for S. 864, Ellie's Law

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to offer our support of your legislation, S. 864, Ellie's Law.

An estimated six million people in the United States, or one in 50 people, have an unruptured brain aneurysm. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people in the U.S. suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, 40 percent of which are fatal. Of those who survive, about 66 percent suffer some permanent neurological deficit. Additionally, the economic toll on survivors and their caretakers is significant, with combined lost wages approximating \$138 million per year. Despite these startling statistics, the federal government spends only about \$5 million per year on brain aneurysm research, or 83 cents per American afflicted with the disease each year. Notwithstanding its widespread prevalence, the federal funding for brain aneurysm research is almost non-existent.

Importantly, Ellie's Law would authorize additional funding for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to specifically further our knowledge and understanding of brain aneurysms and how to effectively manage and treat this condition.

Organized neurosurgery is very concerned about the current lack of federal funding devoted to brain aneurysm research, specifically those projects focused on prevention, detection, treatment and rehabilitation. We look forward to assisting in your efforts to pass this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,

Shelly D. Timmons, MD, PhD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

**Washington Office Contact:**

Adrienne Mortimer  
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs  
AANS/CNS Washington Office  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 610  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Direct: 202-446-2029  
Email: [amortimer@neurosurgery.org](mailto:amortimer@neurosurgery.org)

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
KATIE O. ORRICO, *Director*

25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-628-2072 Fax: 202-628-5264 E-mail: [korrnico@neurosurgery.org](mailto:korrnico@neurosurgery.org)