

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF
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September 12, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

As you begin your conference committee negotiations to finalize the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS-E) appropriations bill, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) would like to express our support for the \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) contained in the Senate-passed version. In addition, our organizations would also like to request your support for the funding levels for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control contained in the House bill.

Thank you for providing a \$2 billion increase in funding for the NIH for the fourth year in a row in S. 3158. Adopting the Senate Appropriations Committee's mark of \$39 billion for NIH, including \$2.276 billion for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), will allow the agency to build on the momentum from recent Congressional investments and advance stroke prevention and treatment options. Cardiovascular disease, including stroke, is the top disease burden in our country and remains the number one and most costly cause of death in the United States. Despite these alarming statistics and recent sizable funding increases, NIH continues to invest a mere one percent of its budget on stroke research.

In addition to medical research advances, effective CDC state, local and tribal-based prevention programs are crucial to advance the fight against stroke, a condition that is largely preventable. Adopting the House Appropriations Committee's mark of \$147 million for CDC's heart disease and stroke prevention will allow CDC to implement proven prevention programs, which have not been fully executed due to insufficient resources.

Furthermore, the House FY 2019 L-HHS-E appropriations bill aims to advance prevention efforts by providing an additional \$40 million for Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance and \$2 million to expand our nation's Injury Control Research Centers (ICRC's). While significant funding has been allocated to address the nation's opioid overdose epidemic, only a small percentage has been set aside for primary prevention efforts — strategies that prevent the use of opioids by at-risk populations. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control is the nation's epicenter for federal primary prevention programs.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial funding opportunities and ongoing support for medical research and the hope it provides to millions of Americans. We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves to final passage.

Sincerely,



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



Ashwini D. Sharan, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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