June 17, 2019

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Subject: Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act of 2019

Dear Representative Finkenauer,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we are writing to support your legislation, the “Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act.” This bill would improve the accuracy of data used to calculate Medicare’s practice expense and physician work geographic practice cost indexes (GPCIs).

The AANS and the CNS have long supported efforts to ensure that physicians of all specialties and in all regions of the country are fairly reimbursed for the medical services they deliver to Medicare beneficiaries, and your legislation would improve payments to neurosurgeons practicing in rural areas. If adopted, we are confident that this bill would help improve access to Medicare services provided to our rural patients.

We are also supporting this bill because it makes clear that higher payments to physicians in low GPCI areas would not come at the expense of physicians in higher GPCI areas. Our continued support for the legislation is predicated on the fact that these payment increases will not be applied in a budget neutral manner, so the proposal is fair to all physicians, regardless of where they practice.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you on this and other important health policy issues.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Shaffrey, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Ganesh Rao, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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