

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, CEO
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@cns.org

President
REGIS W. HAID, JR., MD
Atlanta, Georgia

President
BRIAN L. HOH, MD
Gainesville, Florida

November 1, 2021

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBJECT: H.R. 5435, the Bringing Regulatory Advances Into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act

Dear Representative Blumenauer,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to offer our support of your legislation, H.R. 5435, the Bringing Regulatory Advances Into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act.

As you know, nearly one in five adults in the United States (more than 50 million) live with a mental illness and neuropsychiatric disorders are the leading cause of disability and premature death. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated these illnesses. Additionally, brain disorders, injuries, and diseases are estimated to cost the U.S. more than \$1.5 trillion a year and cause tremendous financial and personal hardships to patients and their families. Despite these alarming statistics, treatments that target the brain and central nervous system, including those conditions with few or no approved treatments, take longer to develop and are less likely to be approved than treatments for other disease areas.

We appreciate that your legislation would authorize \$25 million and direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence to coordinate activities within the FDA to create a more collaborative and innovative process for developing these crucial treatments and cures.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to assisting you in moving the Brain Act forward.

Sincerely,

Regis W. Haid, Jr., MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Nicholas C. Bambakidis, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Washington Office Contact:

Adrienne R. Mortimer
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
AANS/CNS Washington Office
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 610
Washington, D.C. 20001
Cell: 703-254-9424
Emil: amortimer@neurosurgery.org