

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American  
Association of  
Neurological  
Surgeons



Congress of  
Neurological  
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CONGRESS OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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*President*  
JOHN A. WILSON, MD  
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BRIAN L. HOH, MD  
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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Subject: Funding for National Concussion Surveillance System**

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care, representing more than 4,000 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we write to support funding for the National Concussion Surveillance System. As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, we request that you appropriate **\$5 million to fund the National Concussion Surveillance System**, which was authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. Law 115-377).

As you may know, the Institute of Medicine-National Research Council Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth recommended that the CDC establish and oversee a national surveillance system to accurately determine the incidence of sports-related concussions, including those in youth ages 5 to 21. There is currently insufficient data to accurately estimate the incidence of sports-related concussions in youth and subpopulations of youth. Crucial data is also needed to capture all incidences of concussions due to falls, work-related injuries, domestic violence and recreational injuries across our population.

Neurosurgeons have long been involved in the diagnosis and care of individuals with brain injuries, and the specialty's neurotrauma experts are furthering knowledge on concussions through clinical and basic science research. Additionally, the profession has helped shape current guidelines for the evaluation and treatment of TBI and is actively involved in developing public policy related to TBI and concussions. Given the magnitude of the issue and the impact on society, neurosurgeons also work closely with the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation. ThinkFirst's educational programs aim to help people — especially those at high risk: children, teens and young adults — learn to reduce their risk for injury.

On behalf of the AANS and the CNS, we thank you for considering our request. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



John A. Wilson, MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Brian L. Hoh, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons



David O. Okonkwo, MD, PhD, Chair  
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