

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
CHRISTOPHER I. SHAFFREY, MD
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May 22, 2019

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBJECT: H. Res. 366, Designating May 2019 as "Stroke Awareness Month"

Dear Rep. Beatty,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for introducing H. Res. 366, designating May 2019 as "Stroke Awareness Month." There is an urgent need to increase education and research investment to improve outcomes for victims of stroke and improve their quality of life. Hopefully, your resolution will have focused more attention on these crucial efforts.

As you are aware, every year, approximately 795,000 individuals in the United States have a stroke. These devastating injuries ultimately cost society \$17.5 billion in direct health care costs annually and \$16.1 billion in lost productivity for a total of \$33.6 billion. In addition, stroke is the leading cause of serious long-term disability that requires ongoing physical, occupational, speech-language, and other therapy and surgeries.

Your resolution will encourage more support for educational efforts, services, coordination and advocacy that will enhance public awareness of stroke. To that end, you may be interested to know that we are promoting stroke awareness during the months of May and June through our social media platforms, including Neurosurgery Blog: More than Just Brain Surgery (www.neurosurgeryblog.org) and our Twitter feed (@neurosurgery), among others, using the hashtags #VascularNeurosurgery and #StrokeMonth. We would welcome your voice to help amplify these efforts.

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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