

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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April 11, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: S. 781, the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act

Dear Senators Cassidy and King:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to support S. 781, the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017, and extend our offer to help advance this important legislation.

As you know, your bill is designed to provide liability protections to health professionals, including physicians, who volunteer to assist victims of federally-declared disasters. Swift and timely medical response in a disaster can significantly decrease the loss of life and improve outcomes for patients who desperately need care.

While neurosurgeons have a long history of stepping forward to assist disaster victims, medical volunteers are often turned away due to inconsistent Good Samaritan laws, as well as confusion and uncertainty about the application of these laws. Sadly, this lack of uniformity has hindered the ability of volunteer health professionals to provide care, and in many cases, physicians could not provide these critical services — even if they wanted to — due to lack of liability protections. Your legislation will help ensure that neurosurgeons who volunteer their services in future disasters will not face similar uncertainties, thereby allowing them to focus on providing aid to victims.

We applaud you for introducing the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017 and thank you for your leadership in recognizing the need for a federal solution to ensure protection for volunteer health professionals. We look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Boop, MD, President
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Alan M. Scarrow, MD, President
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