

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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CONGRESS OF  
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*President*

ANTHONY L. ASHER, MD  
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July 22, 2008

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United State Senate  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pete Domenici  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Domenici:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, representing 4,000 neurosurgeons in the United States, we would like to thank you for introducing S. 2989, the **National Neurotechnology Initiative Act** and offer our support of this legislation.

As you are aware, due to health care costs and lost income, the economic burden of brain-related illnesses in the United States has reached \$1.3 trillion per year and continues to escalate. Brain-related illness and injury affects one in three -- over 100 million -- Americans every year. Your legislation endeavors to promote discoveries and accelerate the development of newer and safer treatments for brain-related illness, injury, or disease.

By providing much needed funding and promoting federal research coordination between the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies, S. 2989 offers an excellent vehicle for greater advances for spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, Parkinson's disease, and other diseases of the brain and nervous system.

We thank you for your leadership in recognizing this critical problem and look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

James R. Bean, MD, President  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Anthony L. Asher, MD, President  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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