



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY

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May 19, 2002

The Honorable Nancy Johnson
House Ways and Means Committee
Chair, Subcommittee on Health
1136 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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New York, New York

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Dear Chairwoman Johnson:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), representing more than 14,000 U.S. Neurologists wants to thank you for your efforts to fix the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule that was recently cut by 5.4 percent for 2002.

As you know, this is a question of access for Medicare patients. If physicians do not receive adequate reimbursement for treating Medicare patients, it is the patients who will suffer by losing access to care. Because of this, the AAN has made correction of this problem its number one legislative priority for 2002.

It is our understanding that you will be offering a three-year "fix" to this problem in an omnibus Medicare amendment bill that you will be marking up in the near future in your subcommittee. Under your plan, cuts in reimbursement that are scheduled for 2003-2005 will be set aside for statutory increases of 1.8-2.0 percent for these years. The AAN believes that this plan will make a significant contribution to ensuring access to care for Medicare patients.

The AAN offers support of your plan and encourages you to make every effort to implement this fix. We understand that this does not remedy the situation for 2006 and beyond, but at least it provides a temporary solution while long-term changes are considered.

If the American Academy of Neurology can be of any assistance to you in moving this portion of your bill forward, please do not hesitate to contact AAN Federal Affairs Manager Mike Amery at mamery@aan.com or 651-695-2774.

Again, thank you for your consideration and efforts on this important issue to patients and their physicians.

Sincerely,

Stanley Fahn, MD
President
American Academy of Neurology

Cc: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee