



201 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Tel: (612) 928-6100  
Fax: (612) 454-2744

*AAN.com*

**President**

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN  
*San Antonio, Texas*

**President Elect**

Natalia S. Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

**Vice President**

Janis M. Miyasaki, MD, MEd, FRCPC, FAAN  
*Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

**Secretary**

Sarah M. Benish, MD, FAAN  
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

**Treasurer**

Charles C. Flippen II, MD, FAAN  
*Los Angeles, California*

**Immediate Past President**

Orly Avitzur, MD, MBA, FAAN  
*Tarrytown, New York*

**Directors**

Wayne E. Anderson, DO, FAHS, FAAN  
*San Francisco, California*

Jennifer Bickel, MD, FAAN  
*Tampa, Florida*

Bruce H. Cohen, MD, FAAN  
*Chair, Advocacy Committee  
Akron, Ohio*

Gregory J. Esper, MD, MBA, FAAN  
*Atlanta, Georgia*

Larry B. Goldstein, MD, FAAN, FAHA  
*Lexington, Kentucky*

Lily Jung Henson, MD, MMM, FAAN  
*Stockbridge, Georgia*

Shannon M. Kilgore, MD, FAAN  
*Palo Alto, California*

Brad C. Klein, MD, MBA, FAAN  
*Chair, Medical Economics  
and Practice Committee  
Abington, Pennsylvania*

Jeffrey C. McClean II, MD, FAAN  
*San Antonio, Texas*

José G. Merino, MD, MPhil, FAHA, FAAN  
*Editor-in-Chief, Neurology®  
Washington, DC*

Nimish A. Mohile, MD, FAAN  
*Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
Rochester, New York*

Bruce I. Ovbiagele, MD, MSc, MAS,  
MBA, MLS, FAAN  
*San Francisco, California*

José H. Posas, MD, FAAN  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

Maisha T. Robinson, MD, MSHPM, FAAN  
*Chair, Member Engagement Committee  
Jacksonville, Florida*

**Non-voting Board Member**

Mary E. Post, MBA, CAE  
*Chief Executive Officer  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

June 14, 2023

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester  
1724 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ayana Pressley  
402 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer  
1119 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Blunt Rochester, Beyer, and Pressley:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the world's largest association of neurologists representing 40,000 professionals, is strongly committed to improving the care and outcomes of persons with neurologic illness in a cost-effective manner. One in six people live with a brain or nervous system condition, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, ALS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and headache.

The AAN writes to express our support for H.R. 1114, Long COVID RECOVERY NOW Act. An estimated 15% of US adults have reported ever having Long COVID symptoms.<sup>1</sup> Many of these patients report neurologic symptoms, including brain fog, headache, cognitive impairment, and sleep disorders among others.<sup>2</sup> We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the importance of addressing Long COVID impacting so many Americans, and AAN supports legislation like H.R. 1114 that promotes a greater understanding of this complex condition. This will allow neurologists and other physicians to provide the most appropriate patient care for impacted individuals.

Since 2020, our knowledge of COVID-19 has significantly grown. With science at the forefront of policymaking, synthesizing research to formulate the best path forward is imperative. According to one study, one-third of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 developed psychiatric or neurologic disorders within six months, including depression, anxiety, stroke, and dementia. In that same study, researchers who evaluated more than 230,000 electronic health records, which includes anonymous data from 81 million patients, primarily in the US, found that among COVID-19 patients admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU), the incidence of developing a psychiatric or neurologic disorder rose to an unprecedented 46 percent.<sup>3</sup> Another study showed that 22% of children who were hospitalized with COVID-19 or Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a rare condition that can occur after a COVID-19 infection, had neurologic complications.<sup>4</sup> A new study has shown that Long COVID

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/long-covid-what-do-latest-data-show/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35198136/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://journals.lww.com/neurotodayonline/Fulltext/2021/06030/6\\_Months\\_After\\_COVID\\_19\\_Infection.\\_1\\_in\\_3\\_Develop.4.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/neurotodayonline/Fulltext/2021/06030/6_Months_After_COVID_19_Infection._1_in_3_Develop.4.aspx)

<sup>4</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurology/fullarticle/2798383>

patients have to use more brain power for memory tasks.<sup>5</sup> This complements the ongoing research that is identifying biological mechanisms into the neurological presentations of Long COVID that is paving the way for future studies on this condition.<sup>6</sup> We believe we must follow the science as it relates to researching and caring for people affected by Long COVID, and H.R. 1114 will aid us in this pursuit. Our understanding of the cognitive impact of Long COVID and best clinical practices can continue to grow with the passage of this bill.

As we move towards a collective goal of better health for all Americans, we appreciate your focus on:

- Data collection and patient registries
- Support for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Health Centers (RHC)
- Grants for multidisciplinary clinics to treat Long COVID
- Continued input from medical specialty associations, like the AAN, in developing best clinical practices
- Educational resources for health care providers
- Initiatives for equitable access and high value care

The AAN is committed to promoting brain health and given the prevalence of neurologic symptoms in patients with Long COVID, a greater understanding of this condition is an important step forward in advancing brain health for impacted patients.

The AAN thanks you for working diligently addressing the needs of patients suffering from Long COVID and the physicians providing their care. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please contact Kelly McCone, Senior Congressional Affairs Manager, at [kmcccone@aan.com](mailto:kmcccone@aan.com), or Madeline Turbes, Health Policy Manager at [mturbes@aan.com](mailto:mturbes@aan.com). We look forward to working with you as we all strive to address the toll of Long COVID on the American public.

Sincerely,



Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN  
President, American Academy of Neurology

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://n.neurology.org/content/early/2023/04/26/WNL.0000000000207309>

<sup>6</sup> <https://nn.neurology.org/content/10/4/e200097>