BrainPAC is the only federal political action committee that specifically represents neurology, and allows the AAN to increase the influence and profile of neurology on Capitol Hill. With BrainPAC’s support, the AAN informs lawmakers on a number of legislative issues important to the profession of neurology.

**What exactly is a political action committee (or PAC)?**

A PAC is a term for a political action committee organized for the purpose of raising money to elect or defeat candidates. PACs are formed by all kinds of organizations, ranging from business, to labor, to other various political interests. Donations to PACs are used to help re-elect or elect candidates who might have a favorable view towards the organizations’ specific interest or concern.

**Where does the money for a PAC (and for BrainPAC) come from?**

PACs raise their money from members of the organization they represent. For BrainPAC, only AAN members who are US citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate. BrainPAC’s success would not be possible without their generous voluntary support, since federal law prohibits the AAN from using membership dues for this purpose. Only voluntary personal (non-business) contributions can be used to help support candidates for Congress. No personal donations to BrainPAC are used for administrative expenses.

**How do we stack up within the medical community?**

The chart represents BrainPAC’s total donations raised for the 2016 election cycle, compared to those of other top specialty physician PACs. Help us stack up against the competition so our legislation continues to be a top priority in Congress and donate today!

![Chart showing 2016 Election Cycle Donations](chart)

**What is Advocacy?**

“Advocacy is at the heart of moving neurology forward, whether it is patient care, research, or improving our work lives.”

—Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN, AAN President

“Advocacy is critically important and we have a much better voice if all of us are advocates. We have to let our lawmakers know what our patients need, because that is our number one priority.”

—Terrence L. Cascino, MD, FAAN, AAN Past President

“There are many competing interests in this rapidly changing environment, so having the ability to make sure our message is heard is a necessity.”

—Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN, AAN Past President

**Contributions to BrainPAC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to BrainPAC are strictly voluntary, and you have the right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Federal election law requires the AAN to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed $200 in a calendar year.**

Voluntary political contributions by individuals to BrainPAC are limited to $5,000 per calendar year and should be made with personal funds, which are used to benefit political candidates and activities on a national level that support neurology. Funds received from corporations, partnerships, or nonmembers are used to defray administrative expenses of BrainPAC.

**Donate Today!**

[BrainPAC.org](https://BrainPAC.org)
Regulatory Advocacy

The AAN is constantly developing relationships with key agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Food & Drug Administration to influence ongoing regulations that impact the practice of neurology, including reimbursement.

Payer Advocacy

The AAN works with commercial payers to develop and improve medical coverage policies for neurology services.

Case Study: The Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act

In late 2014, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) collaborated with American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) and the American Telemedicine Association to not only support broader telemedicine bills but also put forth a standalone bill to expand telestroke reimbursement.

In 2015, the AAN and AHA/ASA helped develop the Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act to expand Medicare reimbursement for telestroke in urban areas, and found champions who would introduce the bills in both the House and Senate.

Since 2015, AAN has worked closely with AHA/ASA to conduct hundreds of visits on Capitol Hill with patients, neurologists, and lobbying staff.

In 2016, Neurology on the Hill participants advocated for the FAST Act, and at the end of the 114th Congress, the House version of the FAST Act had 172 cosponsors.

In early 2017, the bill was reintroduced in the 115th Congress, and Neurology on the Hill participants again advocated for the legislation in February 2017.

In July 2017, AAN Board Member Brett M. Kissela, MD, MS, FAAN, testified on behalf of the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee.

In 2017, the FAST Act passed the Senate as part of a larger legislative package, and successfully passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee as standalone legislation. The bill continues to have strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

In early 2018, the bill was reintroduced in the 115th Congress, and Neurology on the Hill participants again advocated for the legislation.

In July 2018, AAN Board Member Brett M. Kissela, MD, MS, FAAN, testified on behalf of the bill to the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee.

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AAN members and AHA/ASA advocate at 2018 Neurology on the Hill