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dividuals, including individuals who were in the seminar business, teaching injection procedures.

"I am very pleased to see that the law was enforced in Florida and that this initiative received the reception that it did," said ICA President Dr. D.D. Humber. "ICA will be standing by to cooperate with the Florida Chiropractic Society and other groups, educational institutions and dedicated doctors of chiropractic to lobby against any legislative change that those behind this medical move will likely propose, now that the administrative route has been closed."

**INDIANA:** Chiropractic's battle against the nationwide campaign by physical therapists to expand their scope and status, including many unique chiropractic procedures, saw a victory in February when House Bill 1067 failed to move forward in the Indiana House of Representatives and appears to be dead for this session. Like other PT initiatives around the nation, H.B. 1067 sought to expand the PT's scope of practice, provide for direct access and enhance that profession's status in administrative ways, **with no additional education.**

The ICA of Indiana (ICAI) led the fight to protect the public interest by opposing H.B. 1067, and indications are that this House initiative will not be considered in the current session. Congratulations to Dr. Gerald Broderick, ICA's Assembly Representative in Indiana, along with Dr. Jon Ferguson, Dr. Bruce Hermann, Dr. Ron Woods, Diane Hermann, ICAI Executive Director, and all who worked so hard to educate policy makers on this matter.

**MISSOURI:** Missouri was the scene of one of the first major physical therapy initiatives that would have placed PTs on a highly competitive footing with DCs. Through a major effort by the Missouri State Chiropractors Association (MSCA), and with support from ICA, this initiative was withdrawn from consideration by the PTs themselves, once the caliber of the opposing arguments was seen and appreciated. The PT initiative put forward in last year's legislative session sought direct access and a major scope expansion. ICA's Legislative Staff and ICA Board Member Dr. Hugo V. Gibson, of Lee's Summit, Missouri prepared a comprehensive *White Paper* on this initiative. Now, chiropractors in Missouri are taking their defense of chiropractic a step further.

On January 24, 2002, House Bill 1641 was introduced, defining joint mobilization and spinal manipulation, excluding PTs from performing spinal manipulation unless they have received the training defined in the bill, which is equivalent to the training of a DC. This bill also prohibits anyone from holding themselves out to the public as performing spinal manipulation without chiropractic training.

A companion bill, SB 841, has also been introduced in the State Senate. Needless to say, the physical therapists in Missouri are mobilizing to campaign against these initiatives, just as DCs must mobilize to pass them. The MSCA is very aggressive and proactive and has organized the introduction of a "Missouri Patient Fair Care Initiative," Senate Bill 313, that would require all

HMOs in Missouri to allow 24 self-referral visits and require all insurance plans in the state to offer chiropractic services.

Missouri is fortunate to have an exceptional doctor of chiropractic serving in the Missouri House of Representatives. Dr. Charles Portwood, first elected in 2000, is a highly effective and well-respected member of the Legislature and is uniquely placed to represent both the needs of the public and the profession in Missouri.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Chiropractic organizations in New Hampshire, with the participation of ICA Board Member Dr. Gary Walsemann, have been successful in bringing physical therapists to the negotiating table and obtaining major concessions from that profession in legislation that would have otherwise massively altered the status of physical therapy in that state and extended PT authority into the realm of chiropractic.

Armed with a powerful position paper drafted in cooperation with ICA's Task Force on State Legislation, Dr. Walsemann and his fellow chiropractic negotiators forced New Hampshire's physical therapy organization to delete major passages from their legislative initiative including one that would have authorized PTs to "manipulate", and forced major revisions that would have given PTs unlimited direct access.

Of paramount importance was the restoration of a statement that physical therapists were not authorized to practice chiropractic. Dr. Walsemann, representing the New Hampshire Straight Chiropractors Association, serves as Co-Legislative Chairman in that state's Joint Legislative Committee, and works in full partnership with Dr. David Lansis, who represents the New Hampshire Chiropractic Association.

Through the combined efforts of these two groups, chiropractic was able to successfully address the challenges in New Hampshire House Bill 1377. This bill represents the most aggressive and far-reaching initiative put forward by the physical therapists in any state and without the revisions obtained by the chiropractic groups, would have vaulted PTs to all but doctor status and into direct competition with doctors of chiropractic, all with no additional education or testing.

**NEW JERSEY:** Legislation to secure chiropractic's unique place in health care remains alive in the State Legislature while efforts continue to marshal the majorities needed to pass Senate Bill 2693, legislation that would address the growing and potentially dangerous trend of other providers, not appropriately trained in the detection of subluxations and adjustive procedures, offering themselves as qualified to perform these chiropractic procedures.

The key sections of the bill read as follows:

The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to protect health care consumers from the unauthorized, unqualified, incompetent and improper application of spinal adjustments and manipulations of the spine... And notwithstanding any other law or regula-

tions to the contrary, no person other than a chiropractor licensed by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners... shall perform a spinal adjustment on an individual to correct a vertebral subluxation.

The genesis of this important initiative came from the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors (CNJC), ICA's affiliate organization in New Jersey, in consultation with the New Jersey Chiropractic Forum. The specific text of the bill was drafted by Dr. Anthony DeCosta, a CNJC Board Member and 30-year chiropractic practitioner. Dr. DeCosta has spent the past two years researching the legal and regulatory situation regarding the protection of the public from untrained providers and has been the chief organizer of this important effort.

On November 19, 2001, ICA's Assembly Representative for New Jersey Dr. Michael Fox provided the New Jersey State Senate Representative Committee with a detailed statement on behalf of Senate Bill 2693. Dr. Fox's statement outlined ICA's position on the unique nature of the chiropractic adjustment and the special training necessary to safely and effectively deliver this important service.

A companion bill has also been introduced in the New Jersey State Assembly, A-3961, so both Houses of the New Jersey State Legislature are working on this important chiropractic initiative.

### CANADA

**MANITOBA:** The legislation governing the practice of chiropractic in the province of Manitoba is about to be opened up for revision and the Manitoba Chiropractors' Association (MCA) is circulating possible amendments and additions to the law. Among the possible changes would be the establishment of greater discretion on the part of the Manitoba Association in the regulation-making process and would, for example, if enacted permit the Association to mandate continuing education and professional liability insurance.

The MCA is also seeking provisions that would allow doctors of chiropractic the right to incorporate, an important step in securing a sound business foundation for larger practices. The Board of the MCA serves as a regulatory and standards body for the Province and has considerable official power. Final say about proposed changes is in the hands of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. For more information on this process contact the MCA via e-mail at [mca@escape.ca](mailto:mca@escape.ca) or Dr. Daniel Schaeffer, ICA's Assembly Representative for Manitoba by telephone at 204-269-6866 or by e-mail at [drdsdc@escape.ca](mailto:drdsdc@escape.ca).

### EUROPE

**ITALY:** The battle for formal legal recognition in this great nation is being aggressively addressed by the Associazione Italiana Chiropratici and new opportunities are opening up in the political process. The impressive growth of chiropractic, with nearly 200 DCs now active in that nation has gained tremendous respect and awareness for chiropractic. The Associazione Italiana Chiropratici is working hard to translate that awareness and utilization into a chiropractic law.

ICA has offered its full support in this effort and it is hoped that the presence of hundreds of chiropractors from around the world at ICA's April Symposium in Rome will help in the legal recognition effort. Please visit [www.chiopratica.com](http://www.chiopratica.com) and give your support to the legalization of Chiropractic in Italy. If you want more information about chiropractic in Italy please contact Eddy Pellissier, D.C., CCSP, Presidente, Associazione Italiana Chiropratici via the Italian Association's website, or ICA's Assembly Representative for Italy, Dr. Andrea Cecchi at [chirocecchi@libero.it](mailto:chirocecchi@libero.it). Grazie.

### ASIA

**MALAYSIA:** Guidelines for the registration of chiropractors have been drafted by the Chiropractic Chapter of the Accreditation Committee of the Malaysian Society for Complementary Therapies and serious efforts are underway to turn this draft into a chiropractic law. Chiropractic is not formally recognized but is actively practiced in Malaysia, with concern focusing now on proper qualifications to practice.

In many such developing regions, people with less than a full chiropractic education are holding themselves out to the public as chiropractic practitioners. ICA supports the efforts by all organizations on the frontiers of the profession to seek legislative standards that require a sound chiropractic education from a recognized educational institution as a primary criterion to practice. Copies of the draft "Guidelines for the Registration of Chiropractors" are available from ICA. For more information about chiropractic in Malaysia, contact ICA's Assembly Representative for Malaysia, Dr. Stephen Karner via e-mail at [lifedrk@pd.jaring.my](mailto:lifedrk@pd.jaring.my).

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For copies of original bills and testimonies mentioned in this column check ICA's website [www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org) or call ICA at 1-800-423-4690 or 703-528-5000 or fax request to 703-528-5023.



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