



# CHOICE

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## Chiropractic Coalition Works on Medicare Legislation To Benefit Beneficiaries & Providers President Bush's Initiative Pushes Managed Care Programs

The Bush Administration has announced a major Medicare overhaul initiative that will center on major incentives to push Medicare beneficiaries into managed care programs, and some sort of yet to be fully revealed prescription drug benefit. The previously announced 4.4 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctor level providers for 2003 has now been shifted to a 1.6 percent increase. If the proposed fee cut had been sustained, Medicare fees would have plummeted 20 percent between 2001 to 2005.

ICA's legislative team has been meeting with Members of both Houses of Congress on the committees for Medicare, and it appears there is little inclination on the part of most Members to make drastic changes in what all agree is a popular program. At issue in the minds of most Members with whom ICA consulted is that the proposal would require Medicare beneficiaries to enter into a managed care program to be eligible for any significant prescription drug benefit.

Legislation will soon be introduced

by the Chiropractic Coalition comprised of the ICA, World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA) and the Federation of Straight Chiropractors and Organizations (FSCO) that will address the following key points:

- Guarantee direct access to chiropractic services;
- offer expanded access to a wider range of chiropractic services, including exams and x-rays;
- insure that the public is protected from inadequately trained providers by enacting provisions that require all chiropractic services reimbursed under Medicare be provided by a doctor of chiropractic.

"The ICA is going to fight this issue with all available resources and with a powerful resolve to do what is right for chiropractic in this vital federal program," said ICA Legislative Committee Chair Dr. Michael S. McLean. "Included in this determination is a recognition of the need to work together as a profession and seek a broad front to secure

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The ICA Fitness Council recognizes Arnold Schwarzenegger for his leadership and commitment in helping disadvantaged youth through the Inner City Games project, with a beautiful plaque. It was presented to him at ICA's Symposium by ICA President Dr. D.D. Humber (r) and ICA Fitness Council President Dr. Gerry Mattia.

## Arnold Schwarzenegger Again Headlines ICA Fitness Symposium

Global superstar and ICA celebrity spokesman Arnold Schwarzenegger was once again the headline speaker at ICA's 11th Annual Symposium on Natural Fitness held February 28th-March 2, 2003 in Columbus, Ohio. Greeted by an enthusiastic assembly of

over 300 DCs, students, and friends of chiropractic, Mr. Schwarzenegger's presentation at the Symposium included an emphatic, enthusiastic and personal statement about chiropractic. Arnold congratulated ICA on its leadership in

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## ICA Board Calls for Profession-Wide Dialogue on Chiropractic Education and Accreditation

The ICA Board of Directors has issued a call for a serious profession-wide dialogue on the challenges and needs of chiropractic education in light of current intense controversy surrounding the educational accreditation process.

During their mid-year meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Board adopted a statement that expressed concern over the state of chiropractic accreditation and called for a national dialogue on how this process might be improved.

This resolution is meant to voice the concerns of the many thousands of individual doctors of chiropractic and several chiropractic organizations that have contacted ICA regarding the nature and direction of the operations of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE).

The ICA statement reads:

*The International Chiropractors Association is gravely concerned over the damage done to the chiropractic profession and the chiroprac-*

*tic educational system in recent months by the actions of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE). All responsible parties should be concerned over the maintenance of the credibility, integrity and the restoration of the previously established consensus position the chiropractic accrediting agency has developed over a period of decades.*

*ICA also recognizes the inherent dangers of having a single unchecked accrediting agency with regard to the conservative approach of traditional chiropractic education. The ICA Board of Directors therefore calls for an immediate profession-wide dialogue, including a national consensus conference, to explore all*

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