



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Chiropractic in California is in Good Hands

By John K. Maltby, D.C., F.I.C.A.  
ICA President

The recent melodrama in California in which legislation passed the California Legislature which would have dramatically revamped the way chiropractic is regulated in the state and put the entire chiropractic law back before the voters, is a vivid demonstration of all that is wrong with American politics. Chiropractors everywhere should be deeply grateful that my home state has a Governor, The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, with the courage and insight to see such things for what they are; cheap political attacks with no sound basis in fact or reason, and deal with them accordingly. He did the right thing for consumers, the chiropractic profession and the dignity of the legislative process when he vetoed California Senate Bill 801 on October 11, 2007.

SB 801 would have placed radical changes aimed at undercutting the independence of chiropractic in California before the voters in June 2008, the expenses of the election process being taken out of the licensing fees paid by California doctors of chiropractic. In 1922, the voters of California adopted the Chiropractic Initiative Act that set the

definitions and parameters of practice, the nature and operational basis of the Chiropractic Board and other key legal elements into law. Since it was approved by the voters, this initiative, free from perpetual tinkering by the legislature, has served consumers and the chiropractic profession very well.

The California Chiropractic Board has for some years been at the center of a raging controversy fueled by allegations of conflict of interest, the usurpation of the authority of the Board by unchecked staff members and the politically motivated application of sanctions against law-abiding DCs by the staff.

Under Governor Schwarzenegger, urgently needed steps were taken to reform the operations and personnel within the Board, actions which ICA strongly supported at the time and which we continue to believe were absolutely essential for the fair and effective functioning of the Board. New Board members were appointed, and dramatic reorganization steps were taken to address serious conflict of interest and bias concerns. These included Board consultants who were also being paid by insurance companies, some of whom were active in filing complaints with the Board against doc-

tors, who those same consultants were being charged to investigate. The situation with the Board, upon Governor Schwarzenegger's arrival in office, had reached crisis proportions and his actions to set the stage for urgently needed reforms was a wonderful breath of fresh air.

Those who held the Board in a personal stranglehold for so long of course sought to mount a protest and were happily embraced by a few politicians from the opposition party who saw an opportunity to make political hay out of the situation, regardless of the facts. SB 801 and other similar legislation was a direct product of this political opportunism.

**The California Board has for some years been at the center of a raging controversy fueled by allegations of conflict of interest. Under Gov. Schwarzenegger steps were taken to reform operations and personnel within the Board.**

Their cause was embraced and shamelessly exploited by a couple of opposition newspapers which presented one poorly researched, biased and misleading story after another, attacking the Governor, maligning the reform steps he had initiated, and engaging in an ugly name calling campaign against some Board members. This was not the media's

finest hour. In fact, the media tirade in a couple California publications made me think of Thomas Jefferson's quote about newspapers, which is most applicable in this situation:

"Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle. The real extent of this state of misinformation is known only to those who are in situations to confront facts within their knowledge with the lies of the day."

Those courageous Board members who suffered the brunt of the anti-Schwarzenegger tirade by the political opposition and their media toadies deserve both a huge vote of confidence from the chiropractic profession and others willing to do the right thing, regardless of the media harassment and threats from legislators. ICA and the ICA of California are deeply grateful and we hope that every doctor of chiropractic in California will understand how big a victory for fairness and common sense Governor Schwarzenegger's veto of SB 801 really is. They should send a personal message of thanks and support to the Board for their heroic stand for what is right.

ICA's affiliate organization in California, the ICAC, worked closely with the ICA to oppose this unnecessary and destructive proposal while it was going through the legislative process. We were in daily contact with Governor Schwarzenegger's team throughout.

ICA President Dr. Charles Davis got it right when he said: "The experience with SB 801 reflects the highly charged, partisan nature of California politics at its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

# JOIN ICA TODAY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
MONTH YEAR

Office Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ Suite \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chiropractic College Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Chiropractic licenses held in: \_\_\_\_\_

• In active practice?  Yes  No • Former SICA member?  Yes  No • Former Field member?  Yes  No

I hereby apply for membership in the International Chiropractors Association, agreeing to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, all amendments and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Association under the provisions of the Constitution, and amendments hereafter legally adopted. I also understand that failure to remit dues will result in loss of membership, and all rights and privileges thereof.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Enclosed is a check/money order

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

#### FIELD MEMBERSHIP

##### First year after graduation

- Former Student ICA member (\$50 transfer fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### Second year after graduation

- Former Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### Third year after graduation

- Fmr Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-Student ICA member (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### Fourth year or more after graduation

- (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### INTERNATIONAL — OUTSIDE U.S.

- \$150 yr. (U.S.) Payment may be made by MasterCard/Visa/American Express or International Money Order. Checks drawn on Canadian Banks must have "In US Funds" written after amount. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### FACULTY — D.C.s (full-time faculty only)

- Voting (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Non-Voting\*\* (\$110 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Teaching at (school): \_\_\_\_\_

#### LAY\*\* (must be sponsored by two ICA members)

- Faculty non-D.C. (\$85 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Chiropractic Assistant (\$85 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Interested individual (\$85 yr.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### STUDENT\*\* (\$30 one-time fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Return application to:  
**INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION**  
 1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 650 • Arlington, VA 22201  
 1-800-423-4690 or 1-703-528-5000 • Fax: 703-528-5023

\* Unless otherwise requested, correspondence will be sent to your office address.  
 \*\* Not eligible to vote in ICA elections  
 † Teaching 8 or more academic hours per week at an accredited chiropractic college.  
 †† ICA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense.