

# THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE

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## INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION

1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 650  
Arlington, VA 22201 USA  
Phone: 703-528-5000  
Fax: 703-351-7893

### EMAIL:

[mrangnath@chiropractic.org](mailto:mrangnath@chiropractic.org)

### ADVERTISING:

Mohanna & Associates, Inc.  
972-596-8777 • [lauren@mohanna.com](mailto:lauren@mohanna.com)

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[www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org)

## VETERAN'S BILL

*continued from page 1*

to make the passage of this bill a top priority and personally act today to get their US House of Representatives Member to sign on as a co-sponsor." Dr. McLean served as a member of the Chiropractic Veterans Advisory Committee established by Congress to assist in the effective implementation of chiropractic benefits in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Filner, who represents California's 51st Congressional District, has introduced similar legislation in the last two Congresses. Now serving his ninth term in Congress, one of Rep. Filner's early appointments upon arriving in Washington was to a seat on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In that capacity he has been a tireless fighter for veterans, winning the praise of thousands of veterans and high accolades from national veterans' organizations and health care groups including the chiropractic profession. Now serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Rep. Filner is doing all he can to support a better chiropractic program for veterans with HR 1017 and other initiatives.

Mr. Filner's dedication to America's veterans is profound and paramount in his public policy objectives. As he has regularly proclaimed in his public statements, "There are few principles more important to me than ensuring that our veterans receive the honor and dedicated care that their courage and bravery de-

mand. Owing to that solemn duty, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is dedicated to improving health care and benefits for our veterans."

ICA urges all doctors of chiropractic, students, and citizens concerned about fairness in US health care programs to contact their Member of Congress to urge their support for HR 484 and HR 1017 as a co-sponsor. To facilitate identifying your US House of Representatives Member, please go to the link shown below. This is the official site of the US House and they have a Member finder feature that allows you to enter in your zip code, and the name of your House Member will appear. House seats are apportioned according to population and thus the larger states have more members.

<http://www.house.gov>

**Passage of HR 484 and HR 1017 will be a key objective at the May 14, 2009 Washington DC Meeting. For more information on this important legislative action event watch ICA's website at**

[www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org)

## SUMMIT

*continued from page 1*

practitioners are to be protected.

"We in the ICA take the need for a coordinated political action and legislative effort very seriously and thus, we have focused extraordinary efforts to strengthening the Chiropractic Summit and developing an effective public policy plan of operations," said ICA President Dr. John K. Maltby. "We hope every organization within the chiropractic profession, as well as each individual practitioner, student, staff and family member, and, above all every concerned patient, will join behind the Summit effort."

The day-long Summit meeting will include legislative discussions, presentations by key national policy makers, developmental discussions on chiropractic's specific agenda in national health care, and the on-going business of the Summit organization.

The operations of the Summit are conducted on the basis of consensus decisions made at the periodic meetings, with day-to-day decisions made by a broad-based Steering Committee comprised of representatives of four major participating organizations, including:

- Dr. Carl Cleveland III, President, Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)
- Dr. John Maltby, President, International Chiropractors Association (ICA)
- Dr. Jerry DeGrado, President, Congress of Chiropractic State Associations (COCSA)
- Dr. Lewis Bazakos, Former Chairman of the Board, American Chiropractic Association.

Hundreds of hours of preparation time, involving a growing network of working groups in addition to the Steering Committee are going into laying the groundwork for Summit meetings and operations. "The challenges facing the chiropractic profession require a continuous dialogue between the parties involved in the Summit if workable solutions are to be found and implemented on a timely basis," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby. "The extensive and open nature of the Summit discussions at all levels is the most positive sign anyone could have hoped for and signals an historic potential for progress, and ICA is proud to be a part of this effort."

All Summit participants are unanimous in their agreement on the need to prepare and mobilize to effectively represent chiropractic in the upcoming national policy debate on health care's future, especially because of the political power of chiropractic's competitors and because of the massive changes that will be required to meet the needs of the nation's aging population, estimated to top out at 80 million in the coming years.

"A powerful consensus has already been reached to project a single common message to national policy makers," said Dr. Maltby. "In the coming grassroots mobilization of patients and the profession at large, we recognize that the issue is not how or through whom the message is sent, but the consistency and quality of the message being disseminated."

Summit proceedings are conducted according to the "St. Louis Principles," a code of conduct developed by COCSA designed to foster positive, respectful and meaningful dialogue within the pro-

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profession. Those principles are:

- a. Respect personal differences in style and substance,
- b. Participate openly and honestly,
- c. Remain true to our decisions and not make promises we cannot keep,
- d. Respect professional differences that can exist within the chiropractic scope and practice as outlined in the ACC paradigm
- e. Air our differences inside this forum and not in public,
- f. Hold ourselves and each other to the highest standards of accountability and integrity as expected by the members and constituents we represent,
- g. All public communications regarding the Chiropractic Summit require mutual agreement.

Watch ICA's website at [www.chiropractic.org](http://www.chiropractic.org) or those of other participating Summit organizations for additional details on the May 14th meeting and other upcoming activities.