

TRICARE INITIATIVE

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beneficiaries, who number upwards of 9 million lives," said ICA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michael S. McLean. "ICA also respects the care that went into crafting the exact legislative language, especially the direct access provisions." The definitions section of the bill reads as follows:

In this Act:

- (1) The term 'chiropractic services'—
- (A) includes diagnosis (including by diagnostic x-ray tests), evaluation and management, and therapeutic services for the treatment of a patient's health condition, including neuromusculoskeletal conditions and the subluxation complex, and such other services determined appropriate by the Secretary and as authorized under State law; and
- (B) does not include the use of drugs or surgery

"We applaud Rep. Rogers's dedication and tenacity, and call on all within the chiropractic profession to support this historic effort by immediately contacting their US House Member and ask them to join as a co-sponsor of this bill," Dr. McLean said.

The current list of co-sponsors include the following House Members:

- Rep. Roscoe Bartlett [R-MD]
- Rep. Robert Aderholt [R-AL]
- Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX]
- Rep. Ronald Paul [R-TX]
- Rep. Neil Abercrombie [D-OH]
- Rep. Steve Israel [D-NY]
- Rep. Frank LoBiondo [R-NJ]
- Rep. Robert Brady [D-PA]
- Rep. Leonard Boswell [D-IA]
- Rep. Spencer Bachus [R-AL]

If your House Member is not on this list, we urge you take immediate action to secure their support as a co-sponsor. To facilitate your 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>

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International Chiropractors Association
Political Action Committee

ACT TODAY!

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) is pleased to announce that its on-line voter mobilization program is now operational and available to individual practitioners, their patients, staff and chiropractic students as a personal portal into the world of grass-roots advocacy on behalf of chiropractic. More than four years in production, www.AdjustTheVote.org is no off-the-shelf product, but a custom engineered, interactive grass-roots lobbying tool that is unique to chiropractic, offering unparalleled capabilities which the profession can use to make our voice heard in this era of national health care reform.

Any active or retired chiropractor, chiropractic student, patient or chiropractic supporter may subscribe and participate without cost or membership dues.

ICA's program is unique, powerful and a product of the Association's sense of responsibility to the profession and the public, not being content to rely on any other organization to provide such capabilities, or to simply assume that things will work themselves out.

Recognizing the need for a powerful voter/citizen base to project chiropractic's legislative message and information stream directly to policy makers, www.AdjustTheVote.org will:

- Activate and maintain a grass roots network of chiropractors, supporters and chiropractic patients to influence local, state and federal legislation and candidates on issues important to the chiropractic community, including a patient's freedom and right to choose their chiropractor as part of their personal healthcare team.
- Provide a mobilization tool whereby any concerned individual can enroll as a chiropractic advocate and automatically lend their voice via e-mail, or electronic fax, on issues of concern to the chiropractic profession.
- Guide individuals to their federal legislators and customize their messages expressly for those elected officials.
- Be tailored to be used in lobbying at all levels, not just the US Congress or national administration, including state and local legislatures, right down to county board and city council issues, campaigns and elections. No other program in chiropractic has this powerful capacity.
- Build a coordinated network of chiropractic activists by Congressional District for application to issues in the US House of Representatives, and by state for the US Senate, linking chiropractic advocates for maximum effectiveness.
- Provide a recognition and awards system for both DCs and patients, to recognize all participants with personalized certificates of service and participation.

In this age of profound crisis in national health care, to stand on the sidelines is to accept defeat. ICA is calling on all who are committed to a strong future for chiropractic to take action, go on-line TODAY and sign up as a new [AdjustTheVote](http://www.AdjustTheVote.org) participant, volunteer as a Congressional District Director, and to dedicate the coming days to making sure everyone you know does the same, since in numbers, there is political power for chiropractic.

ACT TODAY!

DCs Nationwide Participate in "ICA Cares" Volunteer Program for Returning Veterans

One year ago, ICA Board Member Dr. RJ Kelly from Houston, Tex., initiated a volunteer program called "ICA Cares" for DCs to provide free care for one year to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In an appeal to his colleagues Dr. Kelly wrote: "Whether visibly wounded or free of outward symptoms, they [our veterans] are coming home changed...I believe as chiropractors we can do much more than wave a flag or buy breakfast for a uniformed man and woman...I believe that through the power of a chiropractic adjustment we can help them restore their lives physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually."

A marine infantry officer returning home after 19 months in Iraq with a recurring history of lower back and neck pain is one veteran who is grateful for

this free chiropractic service. He went to Dr. Kelly who examined him, x-rayed him (which the marine said no one had done before), and planned a course of care. After seeing Dr. Kelly for a few months the marine wrote: "After every visit with Dr. Kelly, both my physical condition and surprisingly my mood improves...I am thankful to Dr. Kelly for his service that is entirely free. It is making a difference in my performance and my life, everyday."

Since October 2001, approximately 1.64 million U.S. troops have been deployed for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) in Afghanistan and Iraq. This generation of veterans has been subjected to a level of stress and trauma that has not been seen in living memory. The 24-hour stress, the injuries, the length of deployments and

the uncertainties of returning to civilian life all contribute to the physical, financial, mental and spiritual burdens returning veterans must face. The statistics are staggering, with nearly 10,000 amputees, more than 18,000 brain injuries, approaching 50,000 wounded in all categories of physical injury, thousands with emotional and psychiatric damage, and the numbers continue to mount. Back and spinal problems represent one of the leading causes of lost time in action and are the leading cause of disability retirements from the military.

The strain of the heavy loads service personnel are obliged to carry every day was the subject of a major report in *The Washington Post* in February 1, 2009. In an article titled, "Weight of Combat Gear Is Taking Toll — The Loads Are Contributing