

Expanded Chiropractic Access for Veterans Legislation Introduced in US Senate



Senator Murray

Legislation "To amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers," was introduced in the US Senate on June 8, 2009 by Washington Senator Patty Murray.

Senator Murray has fought hard throughout her Congressional career for the nation's veterans and has also been a consistent supporter of chiropractic issues. Her new initiative, S1204 will help end an unfair disparity in the availability of chiropractic care for veterans at a time when the need for chiropractic services has become urgent. S. 1204 sets a deadline of December 31, 2011 for full inclusion of chiropractic services at all DVA facilities. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where Senator Murray serves as the third ranking Majority Member.

"This important Senate initiative is vital to enhancing the quality and timeliness of care available to our veterans," said Dr. Michael McLean, Co-Chairman of ICA's Legislative Committee. "S.1204 represents a critical frontier for the veteran and the chiropractic profession

alike and ICA urges every doctor of chiropractic in the United States to make the passage of this bill a top priority and personally act today to get their US Senators to sign on as co-sponsors." At the present time, the bill has one co-sponsor, Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas.

This new Senate bill also complements the efforts of Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) in the US House of Representatives, who has introduced legislation in the current Congressional session, HR. 1017, with comparable goals. Rep Filner has fought for several years for such expanded coverage, successfully getting this initiative passed by the House of Representatives in the last Congress. That effort was not successful in the Senate. "We hope that Senator Murray's initiative will help break the logjam on the Senate side," said Dr. McLean.

Contact your US Senators and urge them to co-sponsor S.1204. You can do this very simply through ICA's online **AdjustTheVote** program. Just go to www.AdjustTheVote.org click on "Current Issues", click on "Request Co-sponsorship S. 1204 Details"; review message and check box under "Take Actions". You will be taken to the communications page to send email, letters and/or faxes; just follow the instructions. The correspondence is prepared for your signature. Do it, **TODAY!!**

NBCE Distributes Practice Analysis Survey

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) recently distributed a practice analysis survey to approximately 10,000 randomly selected chiropractors throughout the United States. Survey results will serve as the basis of an in-depth practice analysis report that summarizes the chiropractic profession in the United States.

Survey recipients have the option of submitting a paper copy of their responses or completing the questions online at www.nbcePracticeAnalysis.com. The online survey requires a user name and password included in the mailed material.

This year the NBCE has asked a call center to help increase response rates by calling to remind doctors to take time to complete the survey. Because of the significance of the practice analysis to the profession, the NBCE strongly encourages recipients to complete the survey instrument immediately. The NBCE selected recipients to achieve a representative sample of practitioners in each state. High response rates will ensure the validity of the survey data.

The published report will include data on practitioner and patient demographics and practice patterns. Additionally the report will include a review of research in the profession including studies on the efficacy of chiropractic.

Practice analysis reports are used extensively to inform and educate state licensing boards, associations, legislators, and insurance companies about the practice patterns of chiropractic practitioners. The reports are also used

by educators throughout the profession and by the NBCE to ensure that the Part III written and Part IV practical examinations accurately reflect current chiropractic practice.

The NBCE published its first practice analysis in 1993, under the title, *Job Analysis of Chiropractic* with updated reports in 2000 and 2005. The latest report scheduled for publication in 2010 will be renamed *Practice Analysis of Chiropractic*, with the new title underscoring the professional nature of chiropractic.

The newest practice analysis survey includes input from an advisory committee of 24 individuals representing practitioners throughout the United States. The NBCE based many questions in the new survey on the committee's list of tasks commonly performed by chiropractors.

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