

Student ICA Delegations Attend Leadership Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Student ICA (SICA) delegations from six chiropractic colleges gathered in Washington, DC on April 23-25, 2008 for a series of leadership workshops and in-person lobbying experiences designed to enhance their understanding of the legislative process, build leadership skills and educate them on the many public policy issues facing the profession in the months and years ahead.

More than 50 SICA leaders met with Members of the US House and Senate from both sides of the aisle, as well as Congressional staff, representing the profession on key chiropractic issues including military commissions for DCs, Medicare and enhanced chiropractic care for military veterans. Making chiropractic's case on those key issues with specific detail, well-developed arguments and professionalism, the SICA delegations also took the opportunity of their Washington visit to say thank you to sponsors of chiropractic legislation and proven chiropractic friends in both the House and Senate.

The Student delegates also took part in the April 24th National Conference on the Future of Chiropractic in Medicare, gaining new insights on this complex federal program and what it means to their future practices and future patients.

The students met with many Senators during their visit and presented them with giant "Thank You" cards signed by all of them in appreciation of their efforts for chiropractic. Among the recipients were:

- Iowa Senator Tom Harkin who co-sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 75, calling on the US Secretary of Defense to act on authority that has been on the federal statute books for 15 years to commission doctors of chiropractic as health care officers in the US Armed Forces.
- Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman, author and principal sponsor of SR 75.
- Iowa's Republican Senator and Ranking Member of the US Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Chuck Grassley. Both Iowa Senators spoke of the need for the chiropractic profession to be informed, involved and politically active in the coming months especially, as the nation makes its choice for President, and also a new Congress in the November elections.
- Rep. Bob Filner of California, chiropractic advocate and current Chairman of the US House Committee



Student ICA members from six different colleges in the US, get together in the nation's capital to attend a Leadership Workshop and lobby for chiropractic during the Medicare Conference sponsored by the ICA.

on Veterans Affairs. Mr. Filner is the author of two key chiropractic initiatives on behalf of veterans, HR 1470, and HR 1471.

"ICA's student leaders represent a powerful and exciting new addition to the ranks of chiropractic's activists and workers and we are very proud of them," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby. "They recognize that their future demands that they assume a personal role in shaping the legislation and other public policy aspects of chiropractic's role in national health care, and the SICA delegations have done so with great effectiveness."



Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), chats with Kristine Lukens, SICA member from Southern California University of Health Care Sciences and a former Gulf war veteran.

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