

Help Fight "Medicalization" of Chiropractic in Florida

By Armand Rossi, D.C.

In December I attended the Florida State Board of Chiropractic's meeting where the Florida Chiropractic Physicians Association (FCPA) was attempting to wrangle injectible nutrients into

our present scope of practice. This is part of a long term FCPA strategy to have chiropractic move more into a medical model of care. The Florida Board rejected their proposal basically saying that injectible nutrients are the practice of medicine and as a legend drug does not come under the chiropractic scope of practice. The FCPA was told that they would have to go to the legislature to change the scope of practice in order to use this procedure. This, of course, was to be their next step anyway.

The FCPA spokesperson, Dr. Roderic Lacy, sent an email that embellished their stance and basically said that we (the Florida Chiropractic Society and the ICA) looked unorganized and confused. In actuality, we really did not have to speak, because the longer the FCPA group spoke, the more they demonstrated the absurdity of their position.

We had people at the board meeting representing the Florida Chiropractic Society, the International Chiropractors Association, Life University, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic,

the Federation of Straight Chiropractors and Organizations. Additionally, letters were presented from Palmer College, Life College-West, and the World Chiropractic Alliance. There were no official members of the Florida Chiropractic Association or the American Chiropractic Association present. Dr. Lacy said they had 150 people there. We had a smaller number of people, but it was representative of a larger number of DCs across this state and the U.S.A.

Even though the outcome of that board meeting was a victory for the chiropractic profession, it is obvious that this was only round one and that the real battle in the legislature is yet to come. In preparation of this upcoming fight, the ICA together with its state affiliate, the Florida Chiropractic Society, has formed a task force that will be proactive in the battle against the "medicalization" of chiropractic. We view chiropractic as a separate and distinct profession that is based upon the principles that make chiropractic a non-duplicating, essential and unique health care delivery system. We stand for research, education and proper patient care.

We do not feel that proper patient care includes administering substances that are clearly in the purview of other health care disciplines or that were learned at a few weekend seminars. We are concerned about patient safety. Doctors should only practice within their own professional standard of care

based on what was taught in the regular curriculum at their chiropractic college. If they choose to practice beyond their scope of practice, then they should take the necessary steps to earn a degree in that profession, which includes those procedures, and then become fully licensed and qualified as such.

In Lacy's email we were referred to as "religious" zealots. This type of name calling only demonstrates the inherent weakness in their position. We believe our position is based on science,

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principle, and the need of the public we serve to have clear choices in health care. The public needs clear choices clear differences in their health care not more of a singular paradigm that has been crumbling under its own weight.

It is for these reasons, and to face the coming battles ahead that we need your support. It is clear that the Florida Chiropractic Physicians Association is the enemy of subluxation-based chiropractic. They believe that DCs should be able to practice using whatever therapy or modality they want, regardless of the consequences (no standardization, no public safety, increased mal-

practice risk, etc). They have made it clear that they will be going to the Florida legislature to change the law to include injectible nutrients, legend drugs or whatever else they can get. We need your help to stop this here and now. We are drawing our "line in the sand", and we are asking for your support in our fight.

Presently we are asking for letters of support from chiropractic associations, chiropractic colleges, and individual practitioners. Please send us a letter stating your support for principled chiropractic in this issue. Tell us, the Florida Legislature, and the rest of the profession, why you stand against the "medicalization" of chiropractic. Join us in our fight. We will be using these letters to call on our legislative representatives to aid us, for public protection.

Send your letter of support to me either by fax at **954-971-7167**, by email at drrossi@rossichiropractic.com or by postal mail to:

**Chiropractic Task Force
Rossi Chiropractic Centers Inc.
2700 N. State Rd 7
Margate, Florida 33063**

Please be sure to include your return address.

Thanks for your support for the principle.

ARMAND ROSSI, D.C. is ICA's Assembly Representative in Florida and chairman of the Special Task Force to Prevent the "Medicalization" of Chiropractic.



Armand Rossi, D.C.

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