



# CHOICE

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## Senate Bill S.1955 Could Adversely Affect Current State Protections for Consumers and Health Care Providers

Legislation is moving through the U.S. Senate, S.1955, which would extend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's (ERISA) preemption to cover the small group insurance market now regulated at the state level. This legislation would have the effect of eliminating the protections now available to chiropractors and chiropractic patients provided by state-enacted insurance equality laws.

Chairman of the U.S. Senate Health Education and Labor (HELP) Committee, Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyoming), is promoting S.1955, which is intended to assist small businesses and other organizations secure more affordable group health insurance for their employees. **ICA fully supports this intention but we are painfully aware that this legislation would, in fact, have the reverse effect by limiting competition, consumer choice and locking far too many plans into the very narrow, massively high-cost medical model that is nearly bankrupting business now.**

As a practical matter, this legislation

would render useless state-enacted protections that include patient access to alternative providers such as doctors of chiropractic, any-willing provider, and insurance equality laws intended to protect health care providers and consumers. If enacted into law, S.1955 would preempt all state directed benefits legislation, not just those that are specific

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**Michael McLean, D.C.**  
ICA Chairman of the Board

to the chiropractic profession. This legislation would also allow for highly discriminatory premium schedules, based on age, sex and previous health condi-



- Educating the public
- Promoting the principle
- Adjusting the future

tions for which basic consumer protections are now provided by many states. To lose these protections would be a dangerous step backwards.

The ICA is asking all DCs to immediately contact their United States Senators and request they oppose the immediate passage of S.1955 and call for further development and critical analysis of this legislation and not place so many millions at a greater disadvantage in the health insurance market without full examination of its intent.

Because of the slow nature of the U.S. mail, it is recommended that you fax or e-mail your U.S. Senators. You can find your Senators' contact information by going to <http://www.senate.gov/>.

Using the FIND YOUR SENATORS function at the top right of the screen, enter your state and copy the contact information shown.

"This is an urgent priority and one that demands action on the part of every doctor of chiropractic in the nation," said ICA Chairman of the Board and Legislative Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Michael S. McLean. "Chiropractic fought hard over many decades to win the basic patient and marketplace protections embodied in state insurance equality laws, and we cannot afford a single step backwards in this arena," he said.



## California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Again Headlines ICA's Very Successful Fitness Symposium



He came back! The 2006 ICA Symposium on Natural Fitness held in conjunction with the Arnold Fitness Weekend again featured Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California. ICA's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Natural Fitness offered doctors of chiropractic from around the world another multifaceted program featuring exciting, star-packed, innovative programs that has been the highlight of the chiropractic calendar for more than a decade. The symposium, held March 3-5 in Columbus, Ohio, presented a full and fantastic weekend of fitness stars, champion athletes, and innovative, practical chiropractic continuing education.

As with every year, each ICA Symposium registrant was able to pose with Governor Schwarzenegger for a studio-style portrait photo. A vigorous advocate of chiropractic care for people of all ages and holding an honorary chiropractic degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College, Governor Schwarzenegger spoke to the Symposium at-

tendees about his experience with chiropractic, crediting the care he received throughout the years for his success in bodybuilding and his ability to maintain such a rigorous travel and appearance schedule.

Mr. Schwarzenegger told the chiropractic audience, "As Governor, you have a chance every day to help people. This is what we have in common...We are friends of chiropractors because chiropractors are dealing with health,

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