



## CHIROPRACTIC ROUND-UP INITIATIVES AROUND THE WORLD

By Ronald M. Hendrickson  
ICA Executive Director

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Medicaid budget cuts include chiropractic services

The *Boston Globe* published a front-page story January 1<sup>st</sup> reporting that effective that day, massive cuts in the state's Medicaid program would take effect, including the elimination of chiropractic services. According to the article, Acting Governor Jane Swift man-



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dated the \$11.4 million cut in Medicaid, the program for low-income and disabled residents that is also called MassHealth, as part of her effort last fall to balance the state budget.

"It's a catastrophe in terms of patient health," said Dr. Madeleine Biondolillo, executive director of the Urban Medical Group in Jamaica Plain... Sarah Barth, a spokeswoman for the state Medicaid program, said officials are concerned about how Medicaid recipients will cope with the cuts, but said every option for saving money in the Medicaid program had serious consequences. "The fiscal situation, as the administration has said, is the worst since the Depression," said Barth.

The cuts spare services to children,

but eliminate several types of coverage for about 500,000 adults on Medicaid, except in extenuating circumstances.

### MICHIGAN

#### Governor signs patients protection bill that impacts chiropractic

The Michigan Chiropractic Association (MCA), ICA's affiliate state organization in Michigan, has reported some very exciting news that is of great importance to all other state chiropractic communities and organizations. Governor John Engler has signed into law, Senate Bill 1121 known as the MCA Patient Protection Bill, that will help clear up the confusion as to who is trained to provide chiropractic care.

Because of the popularity of chiropractic, some massage therapists, physician's assistants and other health care providers take weekend training in manipulation and then advertise that they can provide chiropractic care. The bill will prohibit individuals not licensed in chiropractic from holding themselves

out to the public as being able to perform chiropractic services. It will ensure the public will receive chiropractic care only from doctors who have gone through the education and training required for the chiropractic degree. The bill emphasizes chiropractic as a distinct field of health care only to be performed by doctors of chiropractic.

MCA lobbyists, Steve Scofes and Del Chenault and MCA Legislative Chairman Dr. Tim Tarry were the originators of the bill and have worked tirelessly for two years to ensure its passage. "Gaining such unanimous support for MCA legislation is a milestone in the history of the MCA and in chiropractic," said Steve Scofes.

"After a standstill in the passage of chiropractic bills, this is the first stand-alone chiropractic bill to be passed in 24 years," said Senator Bill Bullard, sponsor of the landmark bill. "This piece of legislation benefits the entire chiropractic profession. If it weren't for Steve Scofes and Dr. Tim Tarry of the MCA bringing this legislation to me two years ago, this bill would not have passed. This is their bill."

The momentum of the bill was amazing as it was voted through the House with a 97-3 vote and passed the Senate unanimously before being signed into law by the Governor. Senator Dale Shugars (R-Portage), Chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee and Representative Steve Ehardt (R-83), Chair of the House Health Policy Committee, played a major role in the passage of the bill, as they passed the bill out of their respective houses. Senator Joe Schwarz (R-Battle Creek) was also very instrumental in the passage of the bill and recognized the MCA as one of the most professional associations in Michigan. "The honesty and commitment of Steve Scofes, Del Chenault and Tim Tarry made it much easier for me to vote for passage of the bill," said Senator Schwarz. "This bill's passage is a tribute to their hard work and to the solid reputation of the MCA."

ICA congratulates the MCA and urges other states to look to this powerful legislative template as a model for legislative action across the nation. For more information on this great victory, visit the MCA on the Internet at <http://www.michiganchiropractic.org>.

### VERMONT

#### Medicare program limits access to chiropractic services

Following a carefully targeted step directed by Vermont Governor Howard Dean, MD, to cut state Medicaid spending and using emergency budget authority, the State of Vermont limited access to chiropractic services in the state's Medicare program for beneficiaries over the age of 21. Effective November 1, 2002, this action is being viewed as little more than a continuation of political harassment at the hands of an exceptionally hostile political leader, and is being aggressively fought by the Vermont Chiropractic Association (VCA).

The VCA has filed a request for an injunction against the state's action, seeking the court's protection from the "irrational...capricious" move and arguing that both practitioners and beneficiaries alike will suffer "...immediate and irreparable harm" without court

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A	Apr. 12-13, 2003	Apr. 26-27, 2003	Mar. 22-23, 2003
B	Jun. 7-8, 2003	May 31-Jun. 1, 2003	May 3-4, 2003
C	Aug. 23-24, 2003	Jul. 12-13, 2003	Jun. 28-29, 2003
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E	Sep. 13-14, 2003	Sep. 6-7, 2003	Sep. 20-21, 2003

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Anne-Marie McDermott Nelson, DC, DACRB  
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#### LOCATION:

#### DATES:

Chicago, IL area	16 hours
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Apr. 26-27, 2003	
May 31-Jun. 1, 2003	
Jul. 12-13, 2003	
Sep. 6-7, 2003	16 hours
Oct. 18-19, 2003	16 hours
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