



CHOICE

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Legislators from Both Houses of Congress Address Hundreds of DCs at Coalition's 2006 Chiropractic Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

The Third Annual Chiropractic Coalition Legislative Day held May 4, 2006 in Washington, DC, drew doctors of chiropractic, students, staff and families from every state in the nation to promote chiropractic's congressional agenda. Focusing on defeating S.1955 and a series of key positive initiatives including the small business health insurance reform alternative S.2510, chiropractic's ambassadors to the nation's capital visited every US Senate office and carried chiropractic's message to hundreds of Members of the US House of Representatives.

At the conference's plenary session, the chiropractic audience heard presentations from top legislators from both Houses of Congress and from both sides of the aisle. Among the highlights was a presentation from South Carolina Senator Jim DeMint who spoke on the need for the chiropractic profession to mobilize from the grass roots, and who also spoke at length of his own personal experience with chiropractic care.

Chiropractic champion California Congressman Bob Filner received an enthusiastic welcome when he appeared before the Coalition crowd. Author of HR 917, *The Better Access to Chiropractors to Keep our Veterans Healthy Act (BACK Veterans Health Act)*, legislation to provide for access to chiropractic services within the Veterans Administration without medical referral. Throughout his Congressional career, Mr. Filner has demonstrated a powerful commitment to fairness through his legislative leadership on behalf of both chiropractic patients and providers, distinguishing him as one of chiropractic's most valuable assets in the national legislative process.

Virginia Representative Thelma Drake spoke to the Legislative Day crowd about the importance of effective lobbying on behalf of patient freedom of choice of health care providers in federal programs, and about the need to work harder to educate legislators of both parties about the cost saving, clinical effectiveness of chiropractic care. Rep. Drake also addressed the unique contribution chiropractic care can make to the nation's aging population, stressing the importance of a drugless, non-surgical choice for our senior citizens as well as the proven cost-effectiveness of chiropractic services.

South Carolina Congressman Bob Inglis took time away from what was one of the busiest legislative days of 2006 to share his insights on a variety



of health-related issues with the Coalition's Legislative Day attendees. A solid chiropractic supporter, Rep. Inglis spoke about his personal experiences with chiropractic and the importance of ongoing involvement by doctors of chiropractic in the political process.

Perhaps the most inspiring and exciting presentation of the day was made by Congresswoman Shelley Berkley of Nevada who spoke with great passion about her chiropractic experience and the role chiropractic can and should play in today's national health care system. She went into great detail about her relationship with her personal chiropractor and how important that relationship

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CCE Faces Storm of Criticism at USDE Re-Recognition Hearings

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity of the US Department of Education (USDE) has voted to recommend to the Secretary of Education that the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) has its federal recognition extended for a period of five years. The seven to two vote was taken at the Committee's June 6th meeting in Washington, DC, following several hours of intense public testimony, the vast majority of which was highly critical of the operations, governance and policies of the chiropractic accrediting body.

USDE policy allows any member of the public to comment on the applications of accrediting agencies for federal recognition and 16 organizations and individuals, including the International Chiropractors Association and one of its Councils, the Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics, took advantage of this opportunity to bring their issues and concerns before the federal advisory committee. The CCE hearing gained national media attention with the prestigious *Chronicle of Higher Education* running a special feature report, that stated: "The public hearing at which the committee reached its decision on Tuesday (June 6, 2006) was one of the most contentious in years, according to veteran observers."

ICA's Concerns:

The concerns of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) were presented by President Dr. John Maltby,

and Dr. Stephen P. Welsh, ICA Board Member. Dr. Maltby and Dr. Welsh outlined before the USDE Advisory Committee concerns about CCE's governance and the longstanding imbalance in the composition of the CCE Board and the CCE Commission on Accreditation, on which the conservative majority of chiropractic educational institutions has been consistently grossly underrepresented. Dr. Welsh related to the USDE Committee how the CCE has created a "self-perpetuating organization solidifying political control in the hands of and to the advantage of the minority," to the disadvantage of the ICA affiliated schools.

As examples of the unrepresentative nature of CCE's operations and structures, ICA submitted documentation showing that of the 19 individuals serving on CCE committees, only two were from conservative schools, and that one small educational institution had representatives on both the CCE Board and

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- Promoting the principle
- Adjusting the future

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