

# THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE

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## VETERANS' ACT

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therapists, now in the gatekeeper role in the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide referrals for veterans for chiropractic care. The bill, when enacted into law, would provide that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs "...shall permit eligible veterans to receive needed medical services, rehabilitative services, and preventative health services from a licensed doctor of chiropractic on a direct access basis at the election of the eligible veteran."

Rep. Filner is a longstanding and outspoken advocate of equitable access and federal funding for chiropractic services, both in recognition of the unique and highly cost effective contribution chiropractic care can make to the health of citizens of all ages, as well as from his own personal experience and understanding of chiropractic. In his statement in the Congressional Record upon his introduction of HR 1471, Mr. Filner stated: "I am a chiropractic patient myself and have been greatly helped by chiropractic care for physical problems caused by an automobile accident. I hate to think that veterans do not have this same opportunity for relief from pain."

Now serving his sixth term in Congress, one of Rep. Filner's early appointments upon arriving in Washington was to a seat on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In that capacity he has been a tireless fighter for veterans, winning the praise of thousands of veterans and high



Dr. Michael McLean (l), Co-Chair of ICA's Legislative Committee, welcomes Rep. Bob Filner to the Coalition's Legislative Day in Washington, DC 2007.

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**Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA)**

accolades from national veterans' organizations and health care groups including the chiropractic profession. Now serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Rep. Filner is doing all he can to support a better chiropractic program for veterans with HR 1471 and other initiatives.

## CALIFORNIA

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it was made official. In his formal veto message, Governor Schwarzenegger stated:

*To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 801 without my signature. This bill would bring the Board of Chiropractic Examiners under the auspices of the Department of Consumer Affairs, pending approval by California's voters on the June 2008 ballot.*

*The Board of Chiropractic Examiners is currently working with the Department of Consumer Affairs to provide essential support services and correct any prior deficiencies. I do not feel it is necessary at this time to go through the expense of placing this measure on the ballot to essentially codify existing practice. I also do not support requiring the profession's licensing fees to pay for the costs of placing this measure on the ballot.*

"The chiropractic profession and the public have been very well served by the Governor's veto," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby, a California resident who has been personally active and involved in this issue with the Governor and his staff. "There are no circumstances under which this legislation could be viewed as anything but against the best interests of consumers and chiropractors alike," said Dr. Maltby. "It has been clearly politically motivated as a vehicle to attack the Governor and his Administration, in the worst, most mean spirited and partisan manner, and we deeply appreciate the Governor's courageous action by vetoing this measure."

Chiropractic's traditional critics and competitors have attempted to use this issue as a means of discrediting the

California Chiropractic Board and the profession at large, even as that very Board has acted dramatically to clean up a longstanding pattern of abuse and misdirection that has needlessly, arbitrarily and grievously harmed practitioners and consumers alike. It is clear that those same critics and competitors would have invested heavily in an election battle, mobilizing the massively deep pockets of the insurance industry and other adversarial interests, to strip chiropractic of the unique and independent status California voters gave the chiropractic profession many years ago.

**This bill if passed would have dramatically revised the way the chiropractic profession is regulated in California and put an unnecessary financial burden on DCs in that state**

"Chiropractic is stronger today because of the Governor's wise and appropriate action on SB 801," said Dr. Maltby. "ICA hopes that the chiropractic profession in California can move on, and focus on providing quality and timely patient care to the millions who need chiropractic so much, but we know that the realm of health care will remain a complex and highly competitive arena. It is certain that similar issues will surface in the future, and ICA has every confidence that Governor Schwarzenegger will continue to do the right thing for the people of our great state."

"Medical gatekeepers are the most disruptive and insidious barriers to timely, quality chiropractic care, and Rep. Filner has acted to offer a sound solution through HR 1471," said Dr. McLean. "The chiropractic profession must respond to his call to action and make sure that there are large numbers of co-sponsors. This is how this legislation will be passed."

U.S. House Members can add their names to this important bill as co-sponsors by calling Mr. Filner's office at 202-225-8045. "With a year to go before the 2008 elections, there is still time to pass HR 1471," said Dr. McLean. "This will happen only if you act today!"

To facilitate identifying your U.S. House of Representatives Member, please go to the link shown below. This is the official site of the US House and they have a Member finder feature that allows you to enter in your zip code and the name of your House Member will appear. House seats are apportioned according to population and thus the larger states have more Members.

<http://www.house.gov/>

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