

**MEDICARE CUTS**

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for the nation's aging population, at a time when drug costs and the costs of adverse effects and misuse of prescription drugs are bankrupting the entire Medicare program.

- Denying reasonable support for chiropractic services will only drive Medicare beneficiaries onto more costly, less effective specialist medical care.
- Medicare should be encouraging, not discouraging chiropractic participation as providers, since massive and growing numbers of doctor level providers are declining to take Medicare patients, setting a collision course with disaster when there are simply not enough providers to meet even the basic needs of beneficiaries. The July 24th Johnson/Cardin Congressional letter states: "The Congressionally-created Council on Graduate Medical Education is predicting a shortage of 85,000 physicians by 2020."

"Congress failed to act on the controversial fee-reduction call prior to adjourning for the final phase of the 2006 election campaign," said ICA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michael McLean. "The fate of the call to stop the scheduled reduction in Medicare fees will now rest in the unpredictable hands of a 'Lame Duck' Congressional session in December. Doctors of chiropractic, patients and concerned individuals need to keep up the grass-roots pressure to stop the scheduled fee cut and also help Congress see that chiropractic is NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM BUT A POWERFUL PART OF A SOLUTION to the failing Medicare program."

Beyond the immediate challenge of preserving reasonable financial support for chiropractic services in Medicare, Congress must act to stave off the impending collapse of the financial foundations of the program predicted by every objective and responsible observer. On March 2, 2005, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, in official testimony, told the Budget Committee of the US House of Representatives:

"The Financial Report of the U.S. Government for fiscal 2004, released just before Christmas, says the unfunded liability of the Social Security system is \$12.5 trillion, an increase of \$810 billion over the previous year. However, the Medicare deficit is twice that: \$24.6 trillion, a rise of \$9.6 trillion from 2003... Indeed, not only are we not talking about reining in Medicare's exploding costs, we are preparing to make them much worse. Next year, the new Medicare drug benefit is fully effective, which will drive up Medicare spending sharply. This is the reason for the rise in its unfunded liabilities. Medicare's trustees estimate the long-term cost of the drug benefit at \$8.1 trillion, accounting for the bulk of its increased liabilities last year."

ICA also calls on Members of Congress to acknowledge the dangerous implications of the swelling national debt. According to the National Center for Policy Analysis' *Daily Policy Digest*, September 19, 2006,

"At the end of the first quarter, the total federal debt, including government agencies and government-sponsored enterprises, stood at \$10.2 trillion. But if you also include the estimated unfunded liabilities for Social Security, Medicare and other programs, the total federal debt is at least \$54 trillion, based on three separate studies — by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) and the Brookings Institution."

"This is time for plain speaking and blunt communications with our Congressional representatives on behalf of our patients, our profession and our nation," said Dr. Michael McLean. "We need to stress that chiropractic, as a drugless, clinically sound and cost-effective approach to health and healing, can contribute significantly to the solution of Medicare's problem, but only if beneficiaries are not driven away from our care to second-choice, much more expensive medical specialty care, by unsound public policies."

**ICA urges you to act today!** Contact your US Senators and US House Member to urge swift action to postpone the chiropractic fee reductions and to act to provide for a more responsible role for chiropractic in Medicare, to take advantage of the unique contributions only chiropractic can make to the health of that embattled program, and to the health of our senior citizen population. **Chiropractic is part of a sound solution, not part of the current problem!**

**How to find and contact your Congressman and U.S. Senators**

To assist in 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/>

To find your United States Senators, simply go to the site below and enter your state. Each state, regardless of size, has two Senators. Their office contact information can be obtained simply by clicking on the links that appear from your state information.


[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

**GOT AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT CHIROPRACTIC? SHARE IT IN THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE.**

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**Dr. John J. Gerhardt**  
 Primary Author of the AMA publication: "The Practical Guide to Range of Motion Assessment",  
 Fellow American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians, Fellow of American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

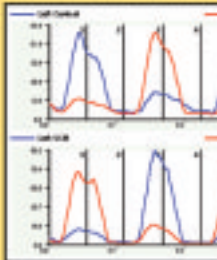


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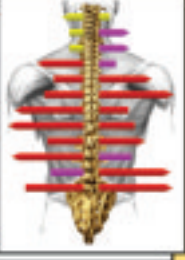
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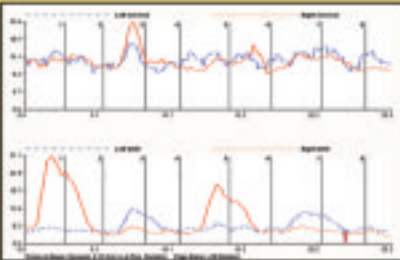
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**David Marcarian, MA**  
 NASA Trained sEMG Researcher  
 MyoVision Designer

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