



NEWS RELEASE

International Chiropractors Association

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CHIROPRACTIC TRICARE INITIATIVE INTRODUCED IN NEW CONGRESS

On January 13, 2009, in one of the first chiropractic initiatives of the new Congressional session, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) has re-introduced legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives, HR 484, which would correct a long-overdue inequity in federal health programs by extending chiropractic health care services to U.S. military dependents and retirees through the TRICARE program. This is the third time Rep. Rogers has sponsored this important chiropractic initiative.

Titled the ***Chiropractic Health Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act***, HR 484 provides:

- *Not later than August 31, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall complete development of a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits, as a permanent part of the TRICARE program, for covered beneficiaries.*
- *The plan shall require that a contract entered into under section 1097 of title 10, United States Code, for the delivery of health care services shall—*
 - (1) Include the delivery of chiropractic services;*
 - (2) Require that chiropractic services may be provided only by a doctor of chiropractic; and*
 - (3) Provide that a covered beneficiary may select and have direct access to a doctor of chiropractic without referral by another health practitioner.*

“ICA strongly supports the extension of chiropractic benefits to TRICARE beneficiaries, who number upwards of 9 million lives,” said ICA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michael S. McLean. “ICA also respects the care that went into crafting the exact legislative language, especially the direct access provisions.” The definitions section of the bill reads as follows:

In this Act:

- (1) The term ‘chiropractic services’--*
 - (A) includes diagnosis (including by diagnostic x-ray tests), evaluation and management, and therapeutic services for the treatment of a patient’s health condition, including neuromusculoskeletal conditions and the subluxation complex, and such other services determined appropriate by the Secretary and as authorized under State law; and*
 - (B) does not include the use of drugs or surgery*

(2)

“We applaud Rep. Rogers’s dedication and tenacity, and call on all within the chiropractic profession to support this historic effort by immediately contacting their US House Member and ask them to join as a co-sponsor of this bill,” Dr. McLean said.

The current co-sponsors list included the following House Members:

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett [R-MD]
Rep. Robert Aderholt [R-AL]
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX]
Rep. Ronald Paul [R-TX]
Rep. Neil Abercrombie [D-HI]
Rep. Steve Israel [D-NY]
Rep. Frank LoBiondo [R-NJ]
Rep. Robert Brady [D-PA]
Rep. Leonard Boswell [D-IA]
Rep. Spencer Bachus [R-AL]

If your House Member is not on this list, we urge immediate action to secure their support as a co-sponsor. To facilitate your identifying your US 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/>

Passage of HR 484 will also be a key focus of the May 14, 2009 Washington DC Legislative Day. For more information on this important legislative action event watch ICA’s website at www.chiropractic.org.

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