



October 14, 2021

Senator Jack Reed, Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

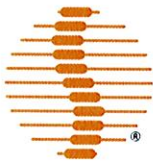
Dear Chairman Reed:

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) appreciates the inclusion of language in the Senate Report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2022 regarding the appointment of Chiropractors as Commissioned Officers. ICA played an integral role in seeking and having passed into law, Section 505 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102-484) authorizing the military departments to appoint "chiropractors who are qualified under regulations" issued by the military departments as commissioned officers in the Army Medical Specialist Corps, Navy Medical Service Corps, or Air Force Biomedical Service Corps. We have raised the issue of advancing the implementation every year on Capitol Hill since its passage.

As you are aware, the lack of progress in seeing this implemented has multiple reasons, including the challenges of bringing change within the military; but also, the vestiges of the longstanding bias and discrimination against the chiropractic profession born out of restraint of trade actions taken in the 1950s and 1960s by organizations within the medical profession. Like all forms of discrimination, even with a federal court acknowledgement (in 1987), the remnants of bias and the barriers built up within the federal system by those who internalize this bias are not easily eliminated. ICA members care considerably about seeing our military benefit from chiropractic.

Almost 30 years and finally we may see progress, because of the decisive action, that you and the members of the Committee have taken with report language in directing, "*the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2022, that assesses the feasibility of using the Department's statutory authority to commission chiropractors as military officers. The assessment shall include: (1) Any combatant commander requirements for chiropractors as part of operating or generating forces; (2) The potential role of military chiropractors in deployed medical units; (3) The conditions under which the Department would deem military chiropractors as a critical wartime medical specialty; and (4) Any recommendations, as may be required, for the committees to clarify related authorities or adjust end-strength allowances for the commissioning of chiropractors as military officers.*"

The last time we spoke, you stressed the importance of our military members receiving the best health care available. The best can only be achieved by including the non-pharmacologic, non-surgical expertise of doctors of chiropractic throughout the military health care delivery system.



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Your leadership and the actions as a committee will bring us closer to achieving this important goal. The men and women who have volunteered to protect and defend this great nation, will benefit tremendously from having regular chiropractic care whether stationed on board the USS Rhode Island, at Osan Air Base, Boiling AFB, Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, or onboard the USS Ronald Reagan.

The ICA was founded in 1926, by Dr. B.J. Palmer the developer of chiropractic. The ICA is dedicated to the growth and development of the chiropractic profession based on Dr. Palmer's fundamental belief in the principle and philosophy of chiropractic as a unique, separate, distinct, and drug-less health care profession. We are focused on removing all barriers to access, especially in federal programs; and insuring our doctors are included impartially in federal programs. ICA, our members, and researchers in the field are focused on improving and expanding the body of clinical and basic science research; in practice-based outcomes research; and in advancing the knowledge base of the whole person effect of regular chiropractic care. We know that regular chiropractic care will help our fighting forces and look forward to seeing our doctors commissioned and available throughout the military health care system.

Thank you again. We stand ready to assist the Committee and the Defense Department on these important matters.

Sincerely,

Beth Clay  
Executive Director

cc:

**Ranking Member, Sen. Jim Inhofe**

**Members of the Committee:**

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen	Sen. Roger Wicker
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand	Sen. Deb Fischer
Sen. Richard Blumenthal	Sen. Tom Cotton
Sen. Mazie Hirono	Sen. Mike Rounds
Sen. Tim Kaine	Sen. Joni Ernst
Sen. Angus King	Sen. Thom Tillis
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