

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 2, 2010

Honorable Robert Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are respectfully writing to urge your consideration of our recommendations for the implementation of Section 725 of Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. This section of the law calls for clinical trials to examine the effects of chiropractic care for our active duty military.

As you know, the results of the Chiropractic Health Care Demonstration Program, which was included in the FY 1995 NDAA was that “patients who saw doctors of chiropractic were significantly more likely to show self-reported improvement in health than patients who saw traditional providers.” Today, chiropractic health care is a benefit for active duty military personnel throughout the United States, and is now provided to the Armed Forces at over 50 military treatment facilities (MTFs) in the U.S., and in Germany and Japan. The trials called for in Section 725 include both Controlled Trials and Interventional Trials, with reporting requirements to keep the Congressional defense committees aware of the protocol and results.

Given the importance of the Clinical Trials, we urge you to utilize National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) within National Institutes of Health (NIH), which we believe to be the most appropriate entity to conduct the trials for the Department of Defense (DoD). It is also important that the trials are administered by experts represented at accredited chiropractic health care research, development, and practice colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Further, to assist you with implementation of Section 725, we respectfully recommend the following:


- That the NCCAM at the NIH be provided the funds necessary and directed to develop an extramural program in accordance with Section 725;
- That institutions eligible to apply for extramural funding under this program be limited to U.S.-based colleges or universities that are members of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges; and
- Treating clinicians for this study to be limited to those doctors of chiropractic currently practicing at MTFs within the DoD health care system, or at the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) health care facilities within the DVA health care system.

Chiropractic care continues to be well received by our military personnel. It improves readiness, and is a cost-effective health care service provided to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

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We are confident that the results of the clinical trials will reinforce the efficacy and positive outcomes of chiropractic care on the health of our active duty military. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of Section 725.

Sincerely,

  
Mike D. Rogers  
Member of Congress

  
David Loeb sack  
Member of Congress

  
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

  
Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick J. Murphy  
Member of Congress