



Congress Needs to Enact Legislation to Expand TRICARE Beneficiary Access to Chiropractic Care

BACKGROUND:

In recognition of the value and benefits of chiropractic care, in 2000 Congress enacted into law, (*Public Law 106-398*) a permanent chiropractic care benefit within the DoD health care system for active-duty military personnel. Similarly, (*Public Law 107-135*) was enacted in 2001 and provided for the availability of chiropractic care within the Department of Veterans Affairs (*DVA*) health system. Chiropractic care is also available to Medicare beneficiaries. Additionally, chiropractic care is available to Members of Congress at the U.S. Capitol through the Office of the Attending Physician.

The availability of chiropractic care in these varied settings has taken place because of the continued and growing recognition by the public and policymakers that chiropractic care is a proven, cost effective, and desired component of our nation's health delivery system. Today there are over 60,000 doctors of chiropractic practicing in the United States, providing care to an estimated 30 million patients annually. **Unfortunately, Congress has not yet acted to ensure that chiropractic care is available to retirees, dependents, and survivor beneficiaries in the military TRICARE system.**

CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION:

To correct this disparity, in the 111th Congress, Rep. Mike Rogers (*R-AL*), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, introduced HR 484, legislation to provide TRICARE recipients with a benefit that is now available to many in the private sector (*access to chiropractic care and services to address pain management, neuromusculoskeletal disorders and related maladies*).

ACTION NEEDED:

Members of the U.S. House are urged to contact Rep. Mike Rogers' office at 202-225-3261 and 1) offer to co-sponsor his Chiropractic TRICARE bill, HR 484; 2) Contact their colleagues serving on the House Armed Services Committee and urge that the Roger's Chiropractic TRICARE Bill be incorporated into the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Act or other suitable legislative vehicle.

Members of the Senate are urged to contact their colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee and work for the incorporation of an identical provision into the Senate version of the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act or other suitable legislative vehicle.

TALKING POINTS:

- Section 702 of Public Law 106-398, the *Floyd Spence National Defense Authorization Act*, established for the first time, a chiropractic health care benefit for active duty military.
- A chiropractic health care benefit was approved by the Congress and the President for our Nation's veterans through the enactment of Public Law 107-135, the *Department of Veterans Affairs' Health Programs Enhancement Act of 2001*.
- During the Chiropractic Demonstration Program at the Department prior to enactment of Section 702 of Public Law 106-398, dependents and retirees were provided with chiropractic care on a space available basis. By all accounts, the response to such care and services was overwhelmingly positive and effective.
- The Rogers legislation will provide TRICARE beneficiaries with benefits that many in the private sector now enjoy -- access to chiropractic care and services to address pain management, neuromusculoskeletal disorders and related maladies that often plague our military personnel and their families.

KEY MEMBERS:

House Armed Services Committee

Senate Armed Services Committee

For Additional Information Please Contact:

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