



## **ENACT IMPORTANT STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT LEGISLATION (HR2891) THAT WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

Representatives Bruce Braley (IA) and Zack Space (OH) have introduced the "Access to Frontline Health Care Act 2009" and **the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) urges all Members of Congress to co-sponsor and work the enactment of this important legislation.**

Many areas currently have a lack of providers of various health care services which is harmful to patients and their families. **HR2891 would establish a student loan repayment program that would ensure that medically underserved communities across America have access to a wide array of health care services and an expanded range of provider types from which patients in these communities could chose to receive their care.** If Congress succeeds at providing health coverage to many of the 47 million uninsured Americans, then it becomes even more critical to ensure that an adequate number and range of providers are available in every community to meet the demand. The Access to Frontline Health Care Act will help place health care personnel in underserved areas while allowing flexibility for States to help bring health care providers to specific areas of need.

### ***HR 2891 Talking Points:***

- **HR 2891 creates a new Frontline Providers Loan Repayment Program:**
  - Process is similar to National Health Service Corps – a provider signs a commitment to practice in an area for at least 2 years, in exchange for student loan repayment
  - The Secretary determines the amount of loan repayment Individuals will take priority who have training in interdisciplinary studies
  - For placement, the Secretary can give preference to Scarcity Areas where an entity in the area has a demonstrated interdisciplinary program, or pledges to initiate such a program
- **The provider pledges to practice in a "Frontline Scarcity Area," which can either be:**
  - A Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA); or
  - An area designated by the State in which the area is located as having a shortage of "frontline care services"

- **Frontline Care Services means a service in the following field, and performed by someone with the appropriate education:**
  - General surgery, chiropractic, optometry, ophthalmology, physical therapy, audiology, speech language pathology, pharmacy, public health, podiatric medicine, dietetics, occupational therapy, general pediatrics, respiratory therapy, medical technology, otolaryngology, or radiologic technology

## ***Access to Frontline Health Care Act is Endorsed by:***

*American Chiropractic Association  
 American College of Surgeons  
 American Physical Therapy Association  
 American Optometric Association  
 National Community Pharmacists Association  
 American Pharmacists Association  
 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
 American Podiatric Medical Association*

*American Academy of Audiology  
 American Academy of Ophthalmology  
 American Academy of Otolaryngology  
 American Dietetic Association  
 American Occupational Therapy Association  
 American Speech Language Hearing Association  
 National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies  
 American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
 Midwest Clinicians Network*

## ***ACTION NEEDED:***

Members of the U.S. House are urged to contact Rep. Bruce Braley's office at 202-225-2911 and 1) offer to co-sponsor the Frontline Health Care Act, HR 2891; 2) Contact their colleagues serving on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and urge that the legislation be considered by the Committee in the very near future.

Members of the Senate are urged to consider introducing a companion bill to HR 2891 and increase the likelihood of the bill passing this year.

### **For Additional Information Please Contact:**

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