



American
Chiropractic
Association

March 9, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) represents the second largest portal-of-entry, primary care, doctoral level health provider profession in the United States, exceeded only in number by medical doctors and dentists. Doctors of chiropractic treat an estimated 30 million patients annually, focusing on a holistic, non-surgical, non-pharmaceutical approach to health care.

As you go about your critically important efforts to bring substantial reform to our nation's health delivery system, we urge you to fully engage the ACA and the chiropractic profession in this process. In many respects, the ACA and chiropractic profession are at "the tip of the spear" when it comes to advocating, practicing, and advancing the nation towards a more rationally based health delivery system. Doctors of chiropractic appropriately focus on wellness, prevention, quality outcomes, and maintaining people in a healthy status, rather than simply treating them after they have become sick.

At one time, the chiropractic profession's holistic and wellness approach to health care was so new, progressive and therefore alien to organized medicine, that practitioners of traditional medicine viewed the chiropractic profession as being far out of the mainstream. Thus, in many "traditional medicine" oriented health policy making bodies and forums the chiropractic profession was, and still remains, under-represented. This is unfortunate. A new, more enlightened approach to health care reform by health policy makers must fully recognize the value and benefits of an "integrative" approach to health care delivery that should include a significant role for the chiropractic profession.

We note that the ACA was not, unfortunately, an invitee to your Health Policy Summit held March 5, 2009. We fully appreciate this event was rapidly organized. However, a new and improved health care paradigm, and delivery system, in America will be more likely with the full inclusion and significant participation of the chiropractic profession. Therefore, we respectfully request the opportunity to participate in any future events or forums similar to the Health Reform Summit held March 5th.

We would appreciate the opportunity to offer you and your administration a number of solutions and supportive ideas for improving access, quality, safety and cost-effectiveness challenges in America's health care system. We, of course, do not have all the answers for these complex challenges, but we do believe we can offer part of the answer...based on more than 110 years of conservative, whole person, health focused, patient-centered chiropractic practice in America. ACA representatives would be honored to meet with you and your designated representative(s) to discuss how progressive views regarding wellness and integrative care can become an important element of your reform efforts.

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Thank you for your leadership on this issue of vital importance to the American people. We look forward to working with you and your administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Glenn D. Manceaux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Glenn D. Manceaux, DC
President