



The 112th Congress Should Enact Student Loan Repayment Legislation That Will Improve Access to Health Care

Representative Bruce Braley (D-IA) has introduced HR 531 the "Access to Frontline Health Care Act 2011" 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. **HR 531 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.** With the enactment of health reform legislation in the 111th Congress, it becomes even more critical to ensure that an adequate number and range of providers are available in every community, including rural communities, to meet the anticipated increased demand of those Americans who will soon have insurance coverage of some type. 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.

Talking Points:

- **HR 531 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 two 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 Frontline 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: 1) contact Rep. Bruce Braley's office at 202-225-2911 and offer to co-sponsor HR 531 the Frontline Health Care Act; and 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 531 and increase the likelihood of the bill passing this year.

For Additional Information Please Contact:

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