The American Chiropractic Association is the national voice of the chiropractic profession on Capitol Hill, acting daily on behalf of doctors of chiropractic and their patients. The following are significant recent legislative victories for the profession and the more than 30 million chiropractic patients across America, including seniors, veterans and active-duty military personnel:

- **2019** – For the first time, in both the House and the Senate, bipartisan bills are introduced to allow military career retirees, National Guard personnel, and reservists, access to chiropractic services in the military health care delivery system known as TRICARE.

- **2018** – A bill giving Medicare beneficiaries access to services allowed under a doctor of chiropractic’s state licensure, is introduced in the House of Representatives. Since 1972, Medicare has limited the services DCs are allowed provide or order for their patients. Restriction has persisted for nearly 50 years with no scientific or valid policy basis. House bill will allow chiropractors to provide all Medicare-covered services allowed under their state licensure.

- **2018** – President signs law which includes provisions of the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act, introduced in 2016 (see above).

- **2018** – President signs law directing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand the availability of chiropractic services at a minimum of 50 percent of all medical centers in each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) by Dec. 31, 2021. Law also codifies and broadens chiropractic services in the VA to include services provided by doctors of chiropractic under the Preventive Health Services and Medical Services categories—in addition to existing coverage under Rehabilitative Services.

- **2017** – NCLC 2017 gathers hundreds of ACA volunteers who advocated on behalf of legislation eliminating the McCarran-Ferguson anti-trust exemption for health insurers (the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act) culminating in the bill passing the House.

- **2016** – ACA improves legislation ensuring chiropractors will be covered by malpractice insurance while traveling across state lines with athletic teams (Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act), which initially excluded DCs. ACA engagement with key members of the House ensured that not only DCs, but all sports healthcare professionals were included in the final bill, which passed the House without objection.

- **2015** – ACA lobbies in support of MACRA, providing permanent relief from the flawed SGR; law also names ACA as a partner with HHS and Medicare Administrative Contractors in initiative to develop and implement an education and training program available to all DCs to increase compliance with Medicare regulations.
• 2014 – ACA leads provider coalition efforts to successfully amend a deeply flawed “FAQ” issued by CMS/CCIIO intended to offer guidance on implementation of Section 2706(a) of the Affordable Care Act (provider non-discrimination). Working with congressional allies, replacement FAQ closely follows ACAs position and adheres to congressional intent and spirit of the law.

• 2013 – ACA work leads to significant increase in value of chiropractic CPT codes in Medicare.

• 2012 – House Armed Services Committee declares chiropractic "Key Benefit" within DoD health care system.

• 2011 – ACA successful in expanding chiropractic role in the Medicare Shared Savings/Accountable Care Organization (ACO) program; DCs now able to share in any savings and bonuses achieved by the ACO.

• 2010 – Health care reform law includes historic provision ensuring that no health plan may discriminate against any health provider acting within the scope of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law; language also applies to ERISA plans and plans developed under the new law.

• 2009 – Doctors of chiropractic included in federal initiatives to reward participation in transitioning to electronic health records.

• 2008 – Doctors of chiropractic become eligible for quality reporting bonus in Medicare.


• 2006 – ACA thwarts federal effort to usurp state licensed scope of practice laws of non-MD health care providers.

• 2005 – ACA advances legislation to expedite chiropractic benefit to all military personnel; Medicare Chiropractic Demonstration Project begins in five states.

• 2004 – Doctors of chiropractic become the first health care providers added to the VA system in 25 years and 28 VA hospitals are chosen to offer chiropractic care.

• 2003 – Congress authorizes the Federal government to hire doctors of chiropractic to care for veterans; congress accelerates timetable for implementation of chiropractic care benefits for America’s active-duty military servicemen and women.