

Statement of Jason Jenkins, D.C.
Human Services Committee
House Bill 6411
February 19, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Coleman, Representative Stallworth, members of the Human Services committee. My name is Doctor Jason Jenkins. I am a Chiropractor in Milford and the District 3 Representative of the Connecticut Chiropractic Council and serve as its Legislative Chairman. I am offering testimony today in support of HB 6411 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES.

On March 22, 2012 the Human Services Committee voted to pass SB 397 out of committee. This would have restored the chiropractic benefit to Medicaid after it had been removed in 2003 under Governor Rowland. The bill however, was defeated in appropriations based upon budgetary limitations and most importantly a lack of understanding of how the inclusion of chiropractic will actually reduce health care costs.

Health costs being absorbed by the state through the medical model on, ie. PCP visits, prescription medications, orthopedic care, surgical procedures, as well as MRI'S, CT Scans and other tests that are far more costly compared to when care is managed by a chiropractor. I have included a number of studies in your packet that demonstrate this fact.

One such study, in the October 11, 2004 issue of the Archives of internal Medicine reports that ~~low back pain patients with chiropractic coverage in their insurance plan~~ needed less surgery and fewer X-rays than patients on the same insurance plan who did not have chiropractic coverage.

In the largest study of its type, four years of claims submissions for the treatment of back pain were examined. 700,000 insured patients with chiropractic coverage were compared with 1,000,000 insured members without chiropractic coverage. Other than the chiropractic coverage, both groups of patients were on the same insurance plan.

By comparing the two groups, the study found that:

- Chiropractic care cut the overall cost of back pain care by 28%
- Chiropractic care reduced the cost X-rays and MRI's by 37%
- Chiropractic care reduced back pain patient hospitalizations by 41%
- Chiropractic care reduced the number of back surgeries by 32%

This is just one example of how access to chiropractic services provided a lower overall cost for the health of a particular demographic.

Dr. Douglas Metz, the chief Health Services Officer at American Specialty Health Network said, "No matter how we perform the analysis – whether we look at the total costs to the health plan, at lower back care, or at musculoskeletal care – in each data set, the population covered for chiropractic had a lower overall cost to the health plan than the population without access to chiropractic benefits". According to Dr. Metz, other studies

performed by ASHN show that 95% of chiropractic patients are satisfied with the care they receive.

Also of note, even mainstream and lay person magazines such as People Magazine published just last month:

- According to the CDC the average number of pharmaceutical drug deaths per day in the US is 61
- 12 million Americans 12 year of age or older have used prescription drugs non-medically
- There has been a 90% increase in poisoning deaths between 1999 and 2008 many due to prescriptions drugs
- One death every 24 minutes - Drugs are now the number 1 accidental killer in the US, with a vast majority of deaths caused by prescription medications and how medicines that have become a part of everyday life are turning families upside down forever

As a practitioner who had cared for individuals with Medicaid coverage for chiropractic services, who is unable to do so currently due to its lack of inclusion and a financial burden now placed on a challenged socioeconomic class, I urge you to pass HB 6411. Our primary responsibility as both Doctors and Public Service Representatives is to serve the people. We therefore need to make decisions based upon the best "win" for the public... that involves decreased healthcare costs, minimizing the use of costly, addictive and dangerous drug interventions, and the decrease of avoidable surgical procedures. The reinstatement of Chiropractic to Medicaid offers that solution to our low income population.

Thank you for your time.