

The Update

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Chiropractic Philosophy Day in Monroeville, PA Saturday, February 20, 2010

Chiropractic Fellowship
of Pennsylvania
Members and Non-
Members
\$35.00 per person/
includes lunch

Call Jennifer Swartz
717-441-6042
or Email :
jswartz@wannerassoc.com.

Holiday Inn Monroeville
2750 Mossydale Boulevard
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 372-1022

Speakers include:
Beth Risser, Tom
Petrisco, Jack
VanDevort, David Smith,
Skip George, Randy
McCall

Chiropractic: Stepping Closer to Oblivion

The Federation of Straight Chiropractors and Organizations (FSCO) has always maintained that chiropractic must remain separate and distinct, with its own unique practice objective, to remain necessary and relevant in the world of health care practitioners. That is why their mission has always been to support and promote the location, analysis, and correction of vertebral subluxation as a sole practice objective for the chiropractic profession.

Unfortunately, chiropractic continues to add more procedures and modalities that make them more like medicine (i.e., the diagnosis and treatment of disease) than ever before. The more chiropractic becomes medicine, the less chiropractic is necessary. What follows is a brief review of major events in just three different states that document chiropractic's foolish, if eventual, march toward oblivion.

Michigan: On January 5, 2010, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed in to law Senate Bill 968 and House Bill 5091, bills that had been dubbed "Scope Restoration Bills." The Michigan Association of Chiropractors (MAC), Michigan's sole state chiropractic association since a merger of two in January 2007, has repeatedly introduced bills to the legislature to broaden chiropractic's scope, contending that Michigan's scope did not allow chiropractors to perform necessary tasks to serve their patients.

MAC's rationale for broadening the scope included the following:

1. Chiropractors spend an average

of 4822 hours in chiropractic school compared with 4667 hours for doctors in medical school. Thus, chiropractors are more than qualified to make important medical decisions.

2. Michigan's scope was the most restrictive in the nation, preventing them from the right to practice as they are educated and trained.
3. Since chiropractors could only diagnose "spinal subluxation," they were in violation of federal Medicare policy/law that requires diagnoses of more than just a subluxation.
4. Chiropractors are trained to adjust joint misalignments where they appear, (e.g., the spine, legs, arms). A national survey indicated that 95% do this, but in Michigan, no extremities are allowed resulting in detriment to the patient.
5. Current scope did not allow chiropractors to perform physical treatment modalities to help a patient's healing, a severe and unreasonable restriction on chiropractors' right to practice as they have been trained.
6. The scope will negatively impact Michigan's economy since doctors will not want to come here to practice, and patients will take their health dollars to border states to receive the full benefits of chiropractic treatment.
7. Although other states do, Michigan does not allow differential diagnosis to determine subluxations,

You can make a difference in the direction of the profession.

If you are already a member stay current and timely with your membership dues, ask others to join and get involved.

FSCO Chairman

Bill Decken, DC
(SC) 864-574-8047

Vice Chairman

Greg Stetzel, DC
(NJ) 973-948-5556

FSCO Officers

President

Shane Walker, DC
(FL) 239-597-6099

Secretary

Kristen Denette, DC
(MA) 508-230-5056

Treasurer

Bryn Gillow, DC
(PA) 570-992-2929

FSCO

2276 Wassergass Road
Hellertown, PA 18055
1-800-521-9856
www.straightchiropractic.com

misalignments, or joint dysfunction using examination, evaluation, x-ray and other imaging technology.

Senate Bill 968 would change chiropractic by moving it beyond diagnosis/spinal analysis to determine existence of subluxations/misalignment entities that produce nerve interference. Rather, chiropractors can now diagnose human conditions and human nervous system and musculoskeletal disorders related to subluxations, misalignments and joint dysfunctions for the purpose of detecting and correcting those disorders or offering to seek treatment from other health professionals in order to restore and maintain health.

So rather than diagnosing subluxations and working to remove them from a patient's body to allow for better function, chiropractors now work to determine a disorder that might be linked to a subluxation and then strive to treat that disorder.

New Jersey: Despite substantial opposition from over 20 agencies and groups including the Garden State Chiropractic Society (GSCS) and the FSCO, exiting Governor John Corzine signed new Chiropractic Scope of Practice legislation into law hours before leaving office. The bill creates a broad expansion of the Chiropractic scope of practice and allows New Jersey chiropractors to include nutritional counseling and selling of supplements for the first time. It also requires 30 hours of biannual continuing education credits, 2 of which must be in nutrition regardless of whether the practitioner is or intends to include nutrition in practice. To practice nutrition, a chiropractor must first complete 45 hours of education in nutrition as well as the annual 2 hour educational requirement.

Interim GSCS President, Dr. Gregory Stetzel, said of the new law, "The GSCS opposed the passing of this new law because we believe that it goes too far in granting the chiropractor full body access in diagnosis and treatment with no requirement of nexus to the spine. We view this broadening of the scope to be detrimental to the safe and effective practice of chiropractic and see its passing as a watering down of the chiropractic principles in practice for the

profession as a whole. And, while the new law does not require that our members expand our practices to meet the allowances of the law, it will impose liabilities that we believe are unnecessary and damaging to the image of our profession and our practitioners."

FSCO Chairman, William Decken, DC, wrote a letter of opposition to the NJ legislators in support of the GSCS's position. Dr. Decken wrote, "While chiropractic adjustments to the spine have a positive effect on the function of the nerve system and thus the organs whose function is dependant on the nerve system, it would be completely outside the scope of chiropractic to have doctors misinterpret this bill and offer treatments directly to the various organs and tissues of the body."

New Mexico: Last March, New Mexico changed its law to create a new and "advanced" form of chiropractor. This was followed later in the year by a proposal to allow chiropractors in New Mexico to dispense medications and give injections which both the New Mexico Board of Medicine and the Board of Pharmacy actually passed.

The proposal allows chiropractors to dispense a variety of substances, including herbal medicines, homeopathic preparations, over-the-counter drugs, and all vitamins and minerals, but may be extended in the future to a larger array of prescription drugs. Unfortunately, all of this occurred without much response from the profession itself.

These are just three states, but they are an accurate snapshot of what is happening throughout the profession. Chiropractic needs people to step up and get involved on both a national and clearly, as this article shows, on a state level. It is not enough to be passionate about chiropractic in your office. You need to call the FSCO office today and ask how you can help be a part of the solution.

Special thanks to FSCO Board Members Dr. Brian Mikula in Michigan and Drs. Greg Stetzel and Bob Berkowitz in New Jersey for their active involvement at the state level and for their contributions to this article.