Florida Chiropractic Association’s

2012 Legislative Agenda for a Healthier Florida

**Attack auto insurance fraud, not ethical health care providers**

Several bills introduced this year have excellent proposals directed at combating fraudulent activities in the PIP/no-fault auto insurance system, however others either unfairly discriminate against chiropractic treatment, or contain provisions masquerading as anti-fraud measures which will only serve to enhance an insurance company’s ability to deny or delay legitimate claims. The chiropractic profession in Florida has a long history of working to uphold the highest standards among its members through education, self-regulation and in working with government at all levels to eliminate fraud and abusive practices relating to the treatment of auto accident victims. **Please SUPPORT SB 1860 by Negron and HB 523 by Workman. Please OPPOSE HB 119 by Boyd and HB 1101 by Horner.**

**Youth athletes and concussion: Preserve the authority for chiropractic team physicians**

Florida should join other states in adopting new safeguards to recognize, evaluate and treat concussive head injuries among student athletes, however, any new program should consider the education and training chiropractic physicians have in effectively recognizing and evaluating such injuries. Several bills unfairly restrict chiropractic physicians from providing evaluations and/or treatment which are well within their current scope of practice, and have been in existing Florida law for over 80 years. **Unless amendments are adopted to specifically include chiropractic, we urge you to please OPPOSE SB 256 by Flores and HB 291 by Renuart, and SUPPORT SB 948 by Jones.**

**Enhance chiropractic research efforts at USF; improve the profession’s self-regulation**

We urge your support of a variety of non-controversial provisions requested by the Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine which will help the profession better regulate itself. Many of the ideas help close loopholes in current law that are often exploited by unscrupulous practitioners and/or non-doctor-owned clinics. Additionally, the bills will benefit in the search for staff to enhance current research programs underway at USF conducted by an endowed research chair in biomechanics and chiropractic created through a $1-million gift from the chiropractic profession. **Please SUPPORT SB 470 by Jones, HB 413 by Mayfield.**

**Ensure Medicaid patients’ continued access to cost-effective chiropractic care**

An ever-growing body of research proves that chiropractic is an effective, safe, and cost-efficient treatment for back and neck pain. Eliminating more conservative, less invasive, drug-free chiropractic care from Medicaid will only force patients into more costly treatment regimens only driving up costs at a time when Florida’s Medicaid budget is already strained. Both AHCA and the House have again wrongly recommended discontinuing current funding of cost-effective chiropractic care for all patients. **We urge you to SUPPORT continued funding of chiropractic care for Medicaid-eligible patients of all ages. (House and Senate Budgets)**