



# Media Announcement

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## ICA Strongly Supports and Endorses the IHPC's Innovative CoverMyCare Initiative

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) applauds and strongly supports the innovative *CoverMyCare* initiative developed by the Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC) and encourages all organizations in the chiropractic profession to become familiar with and engaged in its promotion and its utilization. *CoverMyCare* is a national grassroots program of information and patient engagement designed to create public advocacy for access to all health care providers who are licensed in the states. This program seeks to bring together the widest possible range of integrative and holistic providers in a combined effort to protect a patient's right to select his or her own healthcare path, without arbitrary or prejudicial government interference.

"This initiative is centered on educating patients, providers and most importantly public policy makers on the exact language and meaning of Section 2706 (nondiscrimination in health care) of the Affordable Healthcare Act," said ICA Vice President Dr. Stephen P. Welsh, who represents the ICA on the IHPC's Federal Policy Committee. "The chiropractic profession has an historic opportunity to engage with other non-MD professionals who share our concerns over discrimination, unfair exclusion and the denial of patients' rights and ICA hopes that individuals and organizations will take full advantage of this means to build strength through numbers."

The IHPC project website, [www.covermycare.org](http://www.covermycare.org), states:

***Officials in the states who are obliged to make sure their insurance companies are complying with Section 2706 are largely unaware of, or are ignoring, its provisions. They are also unaware of or are ignoring the great numbers of citizens in their own towns and communities who have made use of these therapies for more than a generation and who continue to do so. They are ignoring the long standing value of the patient experience that the US Congress acknowledged when it wrote and the President signed the ACA and Section 2706: "Non-discrimination in healthcare."***

Doctors of chiropractic, chiropractic organizations and concerned patients are encouraged to explore the *CoverMyCare* 2706 Toolkit which provides information and tools for anyone interested in advancing the purpose of Section 2706. This can be accessed on-line at <http://www.covermycare.org/cmc/the-cmc-toolkit/>. The toolkit provides multiple resources for educating officials in your states, insurance company management, the local media, and for joining or forming groups of consumers, patients and providers who insist that full access to affordable licensed providers is important to health care choices now and for the future.

"It is abundantly clear that the chiropractic profession on its own cannot be as effective as a wider effort can and will be," said Dr. Welsh. "*CoverMyCare* offers a means to project chiropractic's legitimate concerns and aspirations and also the means to mobilize our patient-power, which is the best asset we have since the funds to counter organized medicine, the insurance industry and the pharmaceutical industry are just not there."

ICA looks forward to close and productive cooperation with a growing community of holistic providers, patients and organizations who share chiropractic's basic concerns about access and fairness, through this and other IHPC initiatives.