



Brandy Spaulding, DC

Proponent Testimony HB 196

December 5, 2017

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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me to present proponent testimony on House Bill 196. HB 196 will recognize the month of October as “Chiropractic Awareness Month’ in statute and the OSCA appreciates Representative Lipps’s efforts in sponsoring the legislation.

Previously, both the Governor and Lt. Governor of Ohio have designated October as Chiropractic Awareness Month via proclamation, but new proclamations have to be issued year after year for recognition. The OSCA worked with Representative Lipps to introduce legislation that will allow our members in Ohio to recognize Chiropractic Awareness Month on a yearly basis and allow our membership to coordinate and plan events with our national counterparts.

A recent Gallup-Palmer College of Chiropractic study found that nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults (65 percent) report having had neck or back pain significant enough that they saw a health-care professional at some point in their lives. Among U.S. adults who sought professional care for neck or back pain, seven in 10 tell us they have been to a doctor of chiropractic. Nearly 62 million U.S. adults went to a chiropractor in the last five years, with more than half saying they went in the last 12 months. Based on a sampling of the OSCA Board of Directors’ patient load, the average chiropractor sees approximately 600 patients per year, so we estimate that over 1.4 million patients seek chiropractic care in Ohio each year.

In 2017, the American College of Physicians released updated low back pain guidelines that recommend first using non-drug treatments, such as spinal manipulation, for acute and chronic low back pain. Similarly, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2017 supports the use of spinal manipulative therapy as a first line treatment for acute low back pain.

With prescription pain drug abuse now classified as an epidemic in the United States and the number of spinal fusions soaring 500% over the last decade, the essential services provided by chiropractic physicians represent a primary care approach for the prevention, diagnosis and conservative management of back pain and spinal disorders that can often enable patients to reduce or avoid the



need for these riskier treatments. Injured workers with low back pain injuries are 28 times less likely to have spinal surgery if the first point of contact is a DC.

Chiropractors' collaborative, whole person-centered approach reflects the changing realities of health care delivery and brings clinical efficiency, patient satisfaction and cost savings to their patients.

Thank you Chairman Burke for allowing me to testify before your committee today. I would be happy to answer any questions you or your committee may have.