



CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

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**GOVERNOR SIGNS CAP ON INJURED WORKER
ACCESS TO CHIROPRACTIC CARE**

Will Force Injured Workers to Live in Pain

SACRAMENTO, CA – Governor Gray Davis signed workers’ compensation reform legislation today that will severely limit medical treatment provided to injured workers. In an attempt to reduce medical costs, the reform package includes a 24-visit cap on care provided to injured workers by a doctor of chiropractic, without regard to whether the worker needs additional treatment.

According to the Workers’ Compensation Research Institute, chiropractic costs are just five percent of the total cost in the state’s workers’ compensation system. “Capping chiropractic care will not straighten out the problems our workers’ compensation system faces,” said Dr. Douglas Wilson, president of the California Chiropractic Association (CCA). “Caps will only shift costs from chiropractic to other forms of treatment such as pain medication and unnecessary surgery.”

In addition to not saving employers any money, CCA believes that the arbitrary cap will have negative unintended consequences for injured workers. “This arbitrary cap may prevent injured workers from receiving the care they need. This cap will limit chiropractic care *even if it is effective*,” said Dr. Wilson. “The treatment restriction will also increase disability costs as police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, commercial truck drivers, heavy machinery operators and others who are not able to take medications on the job will be forced to quit working because of their workplace injury.”

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“While we support improving the workers compensation system, it makes little sense to cap a patient’s access to chiropractic care at an arbitrary number,” said Wilson. “If a patient has cancer, would you cap their chemotherapy at an arbitrary number of visits? No, you would continue treatment until the patient had received as much benefit as possible. It should be the same with chiropractic care. We support guidelines on care to prevent any abuse. A cap is bad medicine.”

Founded in 1928, the California Chiropractic Association (CCA) is a statewide, non-profit professional organization of doctors of chiropractic throughout California. The purpose of the CCA is to enhance the general welfare, professionalism and unity of chiropractic in the state of California so as to provide its citizens with both high quality and freedom of choice in health care.

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