

## WCA Legislative Successes in 2017-18

### WCA and You – Stronger Together



**WCA was invited to present at the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse.** Dr. Jeff King, WCA member and member of the Chiropractic Examining Board (CEB), gave an excellent presentation on how chiropractic care can help patients AVOID prescription and opioid abuse. WCA President Dr. Gene Yellen-Shiring and WCA Executive Director John Murray attended this Task Force meeting.

Dr. Jeff King, WCA member, presenting at the Governor's Task Force meeting on opioid abuse.

**State Self Insurance** - WCA worked with other health care groups to defeat a proposal to move the state health plan away from managed care to self-insurance. WCA was the **ONLY** chiropractic group to devote lobbying resources to defeating this anti-chiropractic proposal.



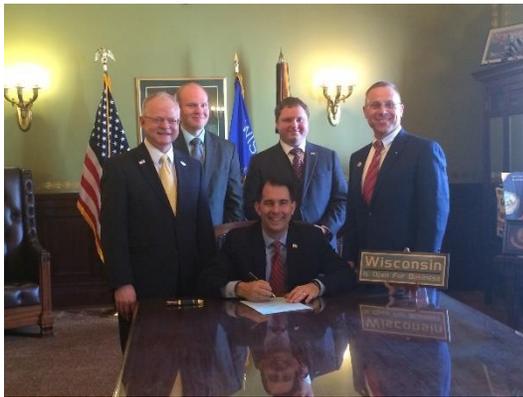
Pictured L-R – WCA Member Dr. Todd Tesch, Sen. Steve Nass, WCA President Dr. Gene Yellen-Shiring, and WCA Executive Director John Murray.

**Worker's Compensation Fee Schedule** - WCA joined with other provider groups in a coalition effort to once again defeat legislation that would have imposed a Medicare-style fee schedule on care provided to patients injured in Worker's Compensation cases. This bill would have meant a **HUGE** reduction in compensation for Wisconsin chiropractors, and severely limited their ability to provide quality care that returns injured patients to work. The WCA was the only chiropractic association to donate **SIGNIFICANT** resources lobbying against this legislation (as we do every session).

**Medicaid Pilot Project on Physical Medicine** - WCA was successful in getting a provision included in the state budget that directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to look at best practices from around the country in which Medicaid programs prevent patients from opioid addiction by utilizing chiropractic. This provision gives the WCA the opportunity to work with state policy makers to implement policies that encourage chiropractic care instead of opioids within the Medicaid program.



**OTC Budget Provision** - WCA attempted to include a provision in the state budget that would have clarified the ability of chiropractors to counsel their patients on the appropriate use of over-the-counter medications commonly used to treat musculoskeletal issues. The medical establishment, insurers, and others fought the provision strongly, and it was therefore NOT included in the budget. This was a missed opportunity for chiropractors to put their education, clinical, and patient care skills to work in preventing patients from the overuse of OTCs as well as prescription and opioid abuse.



**AB 260 - Clinical Tools Package.** The Governor signed this bill into law as WI Act 180. The bill originally included the ability of chiropractors with additional training to offer acupuncture and dry needling and required school districts to accept sports physicals performed by chiropractors. The final bill included: US DOT examinations - ensures Wisconsin chiropractors can continue to provide these exams, cold laser clarification, preceptor clarification, and delegation to other health care providers without having to become a chiropractic technician.

L-R – WCA President Dr. Gene Yellen-Shiring, WCA Communications & Marketing Manager David Bobka, Gov. Scott Walker, Rep. Wichgers' Staff Gabriel Szerlong, and Rep. Chuck Wichgers.

**AB 920 - Association Health Plan (AHP) Legislation.** Would have allowed Association Health Plans to be offered in Wisconsin that did NOT provide patients with equal access to chiropractic care. On very short notice, the WCA was able to rally our members to contact their legislators and attend the Assembly Health Committee public hearing on the bill. Our collective efforts resulted in the bill's author agreeing to an amendment that includes equal access to chiropractic care within Association Health Plans.



This bill ultimately died in the State Senate. The WCA will NOT allow the Wisconsin Chiropractic Insurance Equality Law to be eroded in any manner and was able to mobilize members and our lobbying strength in order to protect the interests of our members and patients. This was a true victory for Chiropractic. Thank you to all who supported this accomplishment.

**DWD Lower Extremity Guidelines** - WCA alerted the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to the practice of certain insurers who were intentionally misusing DWD guidelines to deny payment for care provided to patients involving lower extremities. DWD agreed with the WCA and sent a letter to insurers advising them that this practice was illegal. WCA acted as the regulatory watchdog, helping members.



Pictured L-R – WCA ED John Murray, WCA Board Members Dr. Chris Resch and Dr. Bruce Davis, Gov. Walker, WCA President Dr. Gene Yellen-Shiring, WCA Board Member Dr. Eric Kirk, WCA Immediate Past President Dr. Rod Lefler, and WCA Lobbyist Tom Moore.

**SB 381 - WI Act 306 - Complex Rehabilitation Technology** - Directs the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) to create a new set of Medicaid codes for care provided to complex needs patients. The bill requires a “qualified complex rehab technology professional” to be physically present. WCA was successful in getting an amendment that included chiropractors in the definition of qualified health care professionals, due to diligent work by the WCA Government Affairs Team. This ensures the chiropractors can continue to provide care to patients in wheelchairs.

**AB 834 - WI Act 288 - Test scores required for chiropractic licensure in Wisconsin.** This bill sets the required National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) test scores required for licensure in Wisconsin to 375. The WCA was neutral on this bill (did not oppose this legislation) because membership was split in terms of their opinions on the issue, and the WCA Board found no correlation to demonstrate a relationship between higher test score requirements and better, more successful real-world chiropractors. WCA’s neutrality allowed the bill to become law.



L-R – WCA Executive Director John Murray, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, and WCA President Dr. Gene Yellen-Shiring.

**CT/CRT Course of Study Rule** – WCA worked with the WI Chiropractic Examining Board (CEB) to draft a rule defining the course of study required to become licensed as a chiropractic technician in Wisconsin. Despite early discussions of requiring CTs to obtain over 70 hours of training, the WCA was successful in working with the CEB to get a final rule that requires only 12.5 hours to become a CT. The new rule applies only to newly-licensed chiropractic technicians and will go into effect in late June 2018. WCA programs have already been reconfigured to meet the new rule.



## **Building Chiropractic Success Since 1911**

WCA is the only full-service Chiropractic Association in Wisconsin with the resources to advocate for you and your profession. WCA staff works to support your success as a professional Doctor of Chiropractic in Wisconsin, in the areas of Advocacy, Help Desk, Member Services, Education, and Communications.

However, our efforts cannot succeed without you, our members. For over 100 years, membership has fueled the efforts of this Association.

When Wisconsin Chiropractors are united as WCA member doctors, the great profession of Chiropractic is truly stronger.

## **Join Your Wisconsin Chiropractic Association**



The more doctors who support CHIEF, the greater the influence the WCA can exert in the political process by supporting elected officials who will fight for Chiropractic, champion pro-chiropractic legislation, and fight against anti-chiropractic policies.

The need for legislative support is both a necessity and a reality. The investment that you make in CHIEF is an investment in your practice and our great profession.

**Consider making a generous pledge to CHIEF today.**