

### 1.) Allow Doctors of Chiropractic to practice within their full scope.

With the ever-growing concern of increasing healthcare costs, Doctors of Chiropractic can help decrease not only tax-payer funded dollars going into Medicaid but also decrease opioid utilization. The Ohio Department of Medicaid limits a DC's scope of practice to just a spinal manipulation and diagnostic x-rays while under the revised code it is much more broad. By limiting their scope of practice, the department is putting at risk one of the most vulnerable populations in the state. Example, by law a DC has to evaluate a patient prior to them receiving a spinal manipulation, however, the evaluation isn't covered. In most cases, that cost is either passed onto the patient or the DC has to write off the expense. The state of Missouri recently passed a bill allowing their department of Medicaid to reimburse DC's for their full scope of practice. Their legislative research projected by doing this it would create a surplus in the state of \$4.2 million in 2020 and \$6.1 million in 2021. House Bill 102 would allow DC's to be reimbursed for their full scope of practice within Medicaid. Projections show this would save the state at least \$23.7 million. The cost-savings occur when you take into account the ave. cost of using usual medical care for back pain vs. a DC and additionally how much money can be saved by decreasing spinal surgeries.

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### 2.) Alleviate Student Loan Burden.

A recent study found that 54% of new graduates would owe over \$150,000 in chiropractic student loans with some students exceeding \$260,000. These students loans, coupled with the median chiropractic wage of \$64,440 makes it difficult to recruit students to become DC's. The OSCA is proposing legislation that would create the Ohio Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program. This program, mirrored off of Ohio's Physician, Dental and Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program, would provide up to \$10,000 a year and up to \$30,000 total to qualified applicants that meet certain criteria. This program would be administered by the Ohio Department of Health and consulted by the Ohio Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board. There would be no general operating funds appropriated to this program as the funding would come from Doctors of Chiropractic with an active license. While the funding would not match what the physicians program awards to their applicants this proposal would keep and attract doctors to the state of Ohio.

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### 3.) Provide Patients with Options vs. Opioids

A study published in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine in 2018 cited a decrease in the use of prescription opioids for those patients utilizing chiropractic services for low back pain. The adjusted likelihood of filling a prescription for an opioid prescription among recipients of chiropractic care was 55% lower than non-recipients.

Guidelines have been released by the American College of Physicians, The Governor's Opioid Task Force, The AG's Insurer Task force for Opioid Reduction and the CDC, to name a few, recommending the use of conservative care first for both acute and chronic pain. Conservative care recommendations include chiropractic services, acupuncture, massage and physical therapy.

In spite of the research and recommendations, many Ohioans are faced with barriers to accessing chiropractic care. These barriers may include insurance coverage that limits their conservative treatment options and/or makes the out of pocket expense for the patient more expensive when choosing chiropractic care than other treatment options that would more likely result in an opioid prescription.

OSCA proposed legislation would allow patients to seek chiropractic care and other alternatives prior to being prescribed an opioid.