

February 7, 2011

Barbara Halsey
Executive Director
California Health Workforce Investment Board
777 12th Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA FAX AND U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Dear Ms. Halsey:

On behalf of the California Chiropractic Association, I am writing to you regarding the California Health Workforce Planning Grant led by the California Workforce Investment Board (the State Board).

CCA is a Sacramento-based statewide, nonprofit organization of doctors of chiropractic and allied industries representing the chiropractic profession. Established in 1928, CCA is the largest state chiropractic association in the nation. CCA's mission is to promote high standards of professionalism and patient care through education, advocacy and accountability.

We appreciate the hard work of the State Board-established Health Workforce Development Council with developing a comprehensive strategy to help expand California's health care workforce in order to provide access to quality health care for all Californians.

We understand that the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development has been tasked to collect health services data for the planning grant. It was brought to our attention that the data collected, which includes the "California Health Occupations Employment Projections 2008-2018," "Health Workforce Analysis Research" and "Health Services Definitions and Occupation," omitted doctors of chiropractic and the services we provide to our patients.

Doctors of chiropractic are licensed as, and have been shown to be effective portal of entry, primary care providers, examining, diagnosing, managing, co-managing or referring patients who present for care. Reports published in the *Journal of Manipulative*

and Physiological Therapeutics in 2004 and 2007 show significant cost savings for patients who used doctors of chiropractic as primary care physicians¹.

Doctors of chiropractic are well trained to help reduce medical doctor workloads. It is estimated that doctors of chiropractic nationally treat over 30 million people annually. Today, next to medical doctors and dentists, doctors of chiropractors comprise the largest number of doctorate level, portal-of-entry, primary care providers in the nation. With nearly 14,000 doctors of chiropractic in California, many in medically underserved areas, full utilization of doctors of chiropractic will have a real and positive impact on improving the availability of health care services. And, as providers that are directly accessed by the public, we are required to refer out to the appropriate health care provider when we identify a patient with a condition that will not respond to our care.

For the above-stated reasons and in fulfilling the State Board's objective of expanding California's full-time primary care workforce by 10 to 25 percent over 10 years, it is especially important that the State Board include doctors of chiropractic on the list of primary care providers in the planning grant, any comprehensive strategy to expand health care workforce and data collection efforts.

Please let us know if we can assist by providing any additional information. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact CCA Government Affairs Director Annie Lam at (916) 648-2727, ext. 130.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Winer, DC
President

Cc: Dr. David M. Carlisle, Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development

¹Sarnat RL, Winterstein J, Cambron JA. Clinical utilization and cost outcomes from an integrative medicine independent physician association: an additional 3-year update. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*, May 2007.