

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

RI House Committee on Finance Hearing
Bill H7033

Testimony for support of bill respectfully submitted by
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With the shortage of primary care physicians in RI, countless patients are left waiting to see a doctor to evaluate their health concerns. Doctors of chiropractic (DC) are trained to serve as specialists in evaluation and treatment of acute and chronic conditions, primarily for nerve, joint and muscle problems of the spine. When a patient consults with a DC for complaints of low back pain, mid back and chest pain, neck pain or headaches not only will they undergo an examination to rule out serious problems but they will receive drug-free treatment that likely provides immediate relief of their pains. The DC is trained to recognize when a condition is beyond the scope of their care and when necessary will refer a patient for any necessary additional testing, or transfer care to the appropriate medical specialist.

This bill H7033, addresses compensation for the essential healthcare services that are provided by doctors of **chiropractic**. Passage of this bill is imperative to allow those who use Medicaid for their health insurance to see doctors of chiropractic as a first choice for back and neck pains.

Although this legislation represents an expenditure to the Medicaid program, expanding the pool of DCs to care for the community the potential cost savings is significant. As more people in pain learn to initially consult with a DC, it will continue to lessen the burden at emergency rooms and primary care physicians. Data on the cost effectiveness and patient satisfaction of chiropractic care is readily available.