



# UNIFIED CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma's Democratic "Majority Voice" For Chiropractic

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## Questions for Legislators and General Public:

The UCA would like to know... Have you ever been to a chiropractic physician?

1. Are you aware that we are **physicians** per State statute?
2. Are you aware the **educational requirements** to receive our Doctor of Chiropractic degree include all the core curriculum and basic sciences taught by **medical schools**, with the exception of the most prescribed pharmaceuticals?
3. Of that coursework, are you aware that we receive **more instruction hours than MD's** in Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Nutraceuticals and Phytopharmica and Radiology and basically 100% more of physical medicine to include manual manipulation?
4. Are you aware that **Chiropractic physicians** have to fulfill a rigorous **examination process**, compatible with MD's and DO's, to obtain **licensure** in Oklahoma and all other states?
5. Are you aware there are Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) in the United States which incorporate **Chiropractic physicians as gatekeepers**, resulting in a patient satisfaction level and statistical outcome levels that were higher than those for allopathic (MD & DO) regulated services. \*\*\*Care regulated by DC gatekeepers reduced prescription usage by 55%, reduced hospitalizations by roughly 80%; hence company saved \$11.00 to every dollar spent?
6. Are you aware that the **#1 disability in Oklahoma** is "back pain"?
7. Are you aware that a **U. S. government study** proclaimed Chiropractic the care of choice for low back pain?
8. Are you aware that a **Duke University study** proclaimed Chiropractic care to be more efficacious for treatment of headaches?
9. Are you aware there are multiple regions throughout Oklahoma where the **Chiropractic physician** is the **only primary care provider** available for many square miles?
10. Are you aware the DC's education qualifies him/her to treat approx. **80%** of **health conditions** cared for by the General Practitioner and surgeons?
11. Are you aware that Chiropractic Physicians successfully treat these conditions with a combination of specific chiropractic manipulations (adjustments) to allieviate pressure on spinal nerves, physiotherapy modalities, dietary and exercise counseling, and sophisticated nutritional medicine prescription? Clearly, the primary difference in DC and allopathic care is MD's prefer legend drugs as their mainstay.

12. Are you aware that **61** of the actively licensed 854 Oklahoma Chiropractic physicians completed **160 hours** (20 more than OU medical school) of post-doctoral training in pharmacology, pharmacognancy, **clinical pharmacology** in 1990 & 1991? Yet, those qualified and certified doctors have more than once been legislatively denied use of prescriptive authority in their practices. \*\*\*That training involved significantly more hours than received by **Physician Assistants (56)** and **Nurse Practitioners (43)** here in Oklahoma, **Naturopathic** medical doctors in Arizona, and **Oriental M.D.'s** in New Mexico.
13. Are you aware that the Chiropractic profession is inclusive of "**post-doctoral, Boarded specialists**"? These encompass an additional 300 hours over a three (3) year period of study beyond the standard doctoral level of training and passage of an additional rigorous examination process?
14. Are you aware that **Oklahoma** ranked **49th** out of 50 states for the **worst premature death rates** in the country?
15. Are you aware that the Chiropractic profession organized, carried out and self-funded an "**Oklahoma Wellness Campaign**"? This educational program was presented from town to town in a large church, senior citizens center, or community college; informing residents how to not become a premature death statistic. Each attendee received a handout of references and information on wellness strategies.
16. Are you aware that **Chiropractic medicine** has been mandated as an available healthcare service to veterans, men and women in the military, as well as their families?
17. Are you aware of the magnitude of discrimination that chiropractic medicine endures from:
  - A. General Insurance (**PPO's & HMO's**)? ie. diminished or no payment for procedures paid to other healthcare practitioners, limited am't. paid or number of visits in lieu of drugs
  - B. **Workers Compensation**? ie. literally eliminated due to misinformed employer (the gatekeeper) and "Chiropractic" excluded in the laundry list of all other physicians in Title 85.
  - C. **Medicaid**? not included
18. We need your assistance to correct this long-standing discrimination on the following:
  - A. Matters dealing with insurance discrimination, including:
    - 1). **General Insurance**...(right to choose, equal co-pay, same pay for same services)
    - 2). **Workers compensation**...Chiropractic first before drugs and/or surgery save \$\$\$
    - 3). **Medicaid**... DC Tx of non-work comp. physical ailments, equals employ. capability
19. Legislative approval of verbiage in Practice Act to clarify usage of injectable nutrients and Homeopathics by the appropriately educated/trained D.C.
20. Scope of practice issues including the authority to utilize **Rx drugs** for the appropriately educated/trained D.C.
21. Representation on the **State Board of Health**
22. Other