

Your name
Street address
Town

January 18, 2022

NH House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee

RE: Please Support HB 303

Dear Chairman Hunt and members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee,

Good morning, my name is [name] and I live in [town], NH. I practice as a chiropractor in [town]. I am writing to you today to strongly encourage you to support HB 303, relative to insurance coverage for pain management services.

For decades, we have known that interdisciplinary, comprehensive care is the best way to address chronic pain. Access to a variety of pain management services empowers patients, leads to better outcomes, and is cost-effective. Research demonstrates that access to nonpharmacologic pain management services like chiropractic can [reduce the need for escalated care](#)¹, and that chiropractic is associated with [substantially decreased](#) early and long-term use of opioids.² Studies also indicate that chiropractic care for chronic pain can lead to [long-term cost savings for insurers](#).³

While a handful of insurance plans do offer more comprehensive coverage of pain management services, there is a significant lack of uniformity between plans. As providers, we still frequently see limited and insufficient access to these services and know patients who are unable to continue receiving the care that they need. Some health insurance plans limit patients a small number of visits, or only cover chiropractic care for acute pain. As a profession, we believe it is necessary to protect patient rights to access a variety of nonpharmacologic pain management services.

[Share a few sentences about your experience with this issue in your own work]

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I urge you to support HB 303.

Sincerely,

[Name]

¹ Whedon, J. M., Kizhakkeveetil, A., Toler, A. W., Bezdjian, S., Rossi, D., Uptmor, S., MacKenzie, T. A., Lurie, J. D., Hurwitz, E. L., Coulter, I., & Haldeman, S. (2022). Initial Choice of Spinal Manipulation Reduces Escalation of Care for Chronic Low Back Pain Among Older Medicare Beneficiaries. *Spine*, 47(4), E142–E148. <https://doi.org/10.1097/BRS.0000000000000411>

² Kazis LE, Ameli O, Rothendler J, et al Observational retrospective study of the association of initial healthcare provider for new-onset low back pain with early and long-term opioid use *BMJ Open* 2019;9:e028633. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2018-028633

³ Whedon, J. M., Kizhakkeveetil, A., Toler, A., MacKenzie, T. A., Lurie, J. D., Bezdjian, S., Haldeman, S., Hurwitz, E., & Coulter, I. (2021). Long-Term Medicare Costs Associated With Opioid Analgesic Therapy vs Spinal Manipulative Therapy for Chronic Low Back Pain in a Cohort of Older Adults. *Journal of manipulative and physiological therapeutics*, 44(7), 519–526. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmpt.2021.09.001>