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"treating the cause of your problem, not just the symptoms"

Obama and Chiropractic

As I sit here writing this article, I am listening to the national news in the background on today's inauguration of the Barack Obama into the most important job in the United States. Being a curious and somewhat persistent person, I began to wonder how, or if, his influence will alter the health care system in the United States, and more specifically how it will influence the American public's access to chiropractic care. Not surprisingly, I asked and Google delivered. Below is his letter specifically addressing how chiropractic will play a role in the health care system within the United States.

October 13, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am glad to have this opportunity to again share my thoughts on the role doctors of chiropractic play in the American health care system. As I have said before, doctors of chiropractic play an important role in our health care system, and my commitment to you and your patients remains strong.

As I have said, I believe steps should be taken to acknowledge the important care provided by doctors of chiropractic. We need to knock down unreasonable barriers of access and discriminatory insurance coverage so Americans in need of quality chiropractic care can access it without difficulty. We need to expand the range of chiropractic services covered by Medicare, facilitate integration of doctors of chiropractic into the health care systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, and allow commission of doctors of chiropractic as officers in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. And again, under my health care plan, many, if not all, chiropractic services would be included in the benefit package offered in the public plan.

America faces challenges both at home and abroad. To remain competitive, we must ensure that our health care system is accessible for every American. That is why my plan ensures quality, accessible health care for all Americans. Doctors of chiropractic will

play an important role in achieving this goal. I look forward to a strong relationship with the American Chiropractic Association as we build that future together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a distinct "O" in the middle.

Barack Obama

For the past twelve years, I have witnessed firsthand how chiropractic care can help people live normal healthy lives while saving the government money at the same time. I truly hope that our own federal and provincial governments can overcome the politics and turf wars embedded in our own health care system so that all Canadians can have access to the chiropractic care they need.