

Victory for Chiropractic and the ICA



To all ICA Members;

As many of you are aware, much has taken place on the political front in regard to ICA and CCE. Chiropractic has enjoyed some victories that I would like to share with you. If you visit particular social media sites, **read this closely**, as you will see what is true and what is simply rhetoric from those who wish to see ICA fail.

Let me begin by explaining the reason ICA delayed communicating to the membership all that had transpired recently. Time was needed to let the dust settle from the hyperbole that a vocal minority was employing trying to make the ICA appear foolish. Many have published statements that are mere half-truths and some outright fabrications.

To fight these, the ICA would be spending its time chasing *symptoms*. We feel our time is better used, and the membership better served, taking care of the *cause*. Regarding the issues in chiropractic recently, it is safe to say we came out on top in this instant and we are thankful.

ICA has been demanding reform of CCE governance for decades. In fact, ICA has previously submitted written testimony to NACIQI criticizing CCE, largely for refusing to reform governance.

Approximately one and half months before NACIQI, CCE approached the ICA and offered to negotiate governance reform in conjunction with COCSA, FCLB, NBCE, ACC, and ACA. This is the first time CCE has exhibited this kind of behavior. In exchange for this very positive action, ICA agreed to temper its testimony at the upcoming hearing of the CCE before the U.S. Department of Education's NACIQI. ICA would share with NACIQI that governance reform is ICA's most significant concern and the CCE is willing to work on this with ICA in a positive and timely manner.

Many critics have opined on the timing of this, and whether CCE was serious on delivering on their promise to negotiate. The answers to this will be illuminated as we go on.

Let us contemplate the two scenarios that ICA has had to grapple with:

1. If ICA were to **refuse** CCE's offer and go before NACIQI testifying that CCE refuses to reform governance, CCE simply replies: "We offered to sit with them, six weeks ago, but ICA refused."

The ICA would look foolish; lose credibility and the ability to successfully appeal to NACIQI for support at future hearings.

2. If ICA **accepted** CCE's offer, ICA would have several powerful organizations committed to keeping CCE negotiating seriously. Does that guarantee CCE will acquiesce? Not likely. But if they fail to make serious changes, ICA will return in three years, at the next NACIQI hearing, reporting that ICA attempted to create positive reform and that the CCE is unwilling to change. Furthermore, NACIQI needs to find them in violation of the *recognition criteria*. This would have much more power than first scenario.

After careful consideration and discussion the board of the ICA voted to accept CCE's invitation to negotiate governance reform and soften our stance on the re-recognition of the CCE by the USDE. Our critics have said...Why take the chance? The answer is simple. Here's why:

If CCE gets reaffirmed at NACIQI (as virtually everyone, including Gerry Clum, Serge Sautre, Christopher Kent, etc, agrees is an almost sure thing), what will their motivation be to deal with the ICA if we refused to negotiate in good faith six weeks earlier? I think everyone can figure-out the answer to that question.

And our critics would say...How do you know the CCE will get re-affirmed at NACIQI? Not a simple answer.

ICA had determined, through numerous meetings and analysis, that the U.S. Department of Education staff report would be positive in regard to CCE's activities this past year, since the last NACIQI hearing. If you remember, NACIQI ordered CCE to comply with different *recognition criteria* they found needed to be fixed. Information came back that CCE did a great job repairing what needed to be fixed. And when the Department of Education staff report came out, this past week, sure enough, CCE got a great report, having satisfactorily completed everything it was to take care of. This in itself lends credence to a VOTE of RE-AFFIRMATION for CCE by NACIQI.

Just for a minute, let's stop and let go of the disdain that many chiropractors have for CCE, and let's look at them with a fresh perspective. CCE hired a new CEO, a non chiropractor who understands the chiropractic profession as he was a very

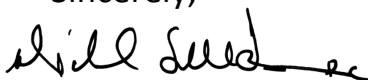
senior administrator at the regional accrediting body that accredits Life University, Sherman College of Chiropractic, Parker University and Texas Chiropractic College called The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). He was brought on to guide CCE, and help bring them up to the standards of the U.S. Department of Education. Along with fixing the problems that NACIQI compiled last December, CCE has also extended its hand to the ICA and other groups to sit and talk earnestly about governance reform. Could there be a real change in CCE compared to where it stood years ago? I don't have a definitive answer to that, I only have the hope and faith that change is upon us and now is the time to seize the opportunity to engage with the CCE.

ICA still objects to and will fight to correct the slide toward medicine in our education system, but the most important aspect of that is GOVERNANCE, and we finally, after almost 40 years, have a legitimate shot at greatly improving that. This is not a misstep; this is a victory in a long campaign.

As ICA members, you can be proud of what your board is working to do. You can be proud of the hours upon hours they have spent working on your behalf to create change within the CCE. And you can be proud that the ICA has never swayed on its convictions, principles and vision. We are working harder than ever to put more chiropractic into chiropractic, and we do this on your behalf. As the NACIQI hearings move forward, ICA will keep you informed.

Big things are happening in chiropractic and the ICA is there every step of the way. Tell your friends in chiropractic, who want to see chiropractic stay principled, to JOIN THE ICA! We are growing an army and we need all of our members to reach out to those who are sitting on the sidelines waiting for others to do it for them. Let them know there is a place they are welcome. Let them know that we are promoting and protecting chiropractic. Let them know that the ICA is on the wall, making sure that nothing happens to our profession while they are asleep. And nothing is going to stop us. Not from within our profession or from the outside! We are committed, we are ready, WE ARE THE ICA!!

Sincerely,



Michael S. McLean, DC, FICA
President

The International Chiropractors Association