

A Call for Fundamental Reforms Within the Council on Chiropractic Education

A Public Statement by the DaVinci Group

A nationwide coalition of chiropractic professional associations, clinical specialty organizations, research groups, advocacy organizations and individual practitioners committed to excellence in chiropractic education.

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There continues to grow within the mainstream of chiropractic in the United States a deep concern over the policies, procedures and Standards of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE). This wave of concern has been fostered by a regular pattern on the part of CCE's decision-makers, of actions, statements and policies that appear to many thousands within the chiropractic profession to be intended to move the chiropractic educational process away from the essentials of chiropractic science and the concept of the human body as a self-healing, self-repairing organism, towards an allopathic model of practice and patient care, to the detriment of the profession and the chiropractic patient population, on a host of levels.

CCE's recent actions regarding the *Standards* which accredited educational institutions are required to follow, minimizing as they do the chiropractic-specific elements required of those institutions and eliminating reference therein to the core element in chiropractic, the subluxation and to the drugless and non-surgical nature of chiropractic science and practice, have ignited a raging controversy within the chiropractic profession. The finding of the US Department of Education that CCE is facing more than 40 violations of the Secretary's criteria was alarming to the chiropractic profession. This, combined with CCE's recent actions, have created a situation where the CCE has lost the confidence of the individual practitioner, chiropractic student groups, faculty and a growing host of chiropractic organizations.

It is clear that the decision-makers at the CCE have elected to promote an expansive agenda seeking to use the accreditation process to drive the practice of chiropractic in a non-chiropractic, allopathic direction, through the teaching process, to the benefit of one or two colleges and to the detriment of others. This extra-legislative behavior is inappropriate for any accrediting body, showcases the prejudicial nature of many decisions and procedures on CCE's part and has quite legitimately brought about demands for swift and profound reforms within the CCE which would provide for broad-based and objective policies and *Standards* and restore the confidence of the chiropractic profession at-large in the profession's sole accrediting body.

To be meaningful, CCE reform must include, but not be limited to the following elements:

- 1) Vertebral subluxation detection and reduction in both symptomatic and a-symptomatic patients must be included in the *Standards* as the essential element in a curriculum leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree.
- 2) Chiropractic must be defined as "without drugs and surgery" in the *Standards*.
- 3) Governance must be reformed to include:
 - A. Mechanisms for Councilor appointment/election that eliminate the current self-sustaining and perpetuating nature of the Council and broaden the base of participation in the elections process.
 - B. Reforms in the current elections processes and procedures to allow for greater autonomy in nomination and voting.

- C. An expansion of the Academy of site team members and the opportunity for the program being reviewed to select one person from the Academy as a site team member visiting the institution.

It is because all within the profession recognize the importance of the accreditation process for chiropractic educational institutions that it becomes absolutely essential that the accreditation activities of the CCE reflect a fair and balanced viewpoint that encompasses the broad and diversified views of stakeholders in the profession and yet, while being inclusive, requires that chiropractic educational standards retain those essential characteristics, definitions and clinical elements that have been central to the profession's identity and success for 116 years.

To restore the credibility of and confidence in the CCE and to strengthen and re-energize the chiropractic educational process, the organizations and individuals represented here join in a call for an immediate process by which profound reforms are undertaken in the governance, policies, procedures, personnel and, above all *Standards* of the CCE. Failure to do so can only lead to a continued erosion of the chiropractic educational system and make unity of spirit and action within the chiropractic profession impossible to attain, at a time when such unity is vital to both the profession and to those who depend on chiropractic's unique healing contribution to the lives of patients of all ages.

The undersigned professional associations, specialty and technique organizations, vendors and individuals formally and publically endorse and support this statement:

**AMC Management & Consulting
Arkansas Chiropractic Council
Association for Reorganizational Healing Practice
Band of Brothers International
Band of Brothers of Tennessee
Band of Brothers, Texas
Blair Upper Cervical Chiropractic Society
California JAM
ChiroFutures Malpractice Program
ChiroSecure
Chiropractic Bio-Physics
Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania
Chiropractic Lifecare of America
International Chiropractic Pediatric Association (ICPA)
Chiropractic Society of Texas
Chiropractors on the Road to Excellence, CORE
Connecticut Chiropractic Council
Council on Applied Chiropractic Sciences
Council on Chiropractic and Pediatrics
Council of New Jersey Chiropractors
Delta Sigma Chi Professional Fraternity
Doctors for Excellence in Chiropractic Education, DECE
Dynamic Essentials Seminars
The Family Practice
Florida Chiropractic Society
Florida Chiropractic Society Political Action Committee
Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Tenets and Science**

Foundation for Vertebral Subluxation
Garden State Chiropractic Society
Georgia Council of Chiropractic
Gibson Management
Grostick Procedure Society
Holder Research Institute
ICA of California
ICA of Indiana
ICA of Nevada
The Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association
Innate Expressions, Ltd.
International Center for Chiropractic Office Management
The International Chiropractors Association, ICA
International Federation of Chiropractors and Organizations, IFCO
League of Chiropractic Women
Maximized Living
Michigan Association of Chiropractors
Movement for Chiropractic Quality and Integrity
National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association, NUCCA
New Beginnings Seminars
New Hampshire State Chiropractic Society
New York Chiropractic Council
Nevada Chiropractic Association
Now You Know
Palmetto State Chiropractic Association
Practicing Chiropractors Committee for Radiological Protocols
San Diego County Chiropractors United
Society of Chiropractic Orthospinology
Sweat Institute for Atlas Orthogonal Chiropractic
Upper Cervical Health Centers
Washington State Chiropractic Association

To add your name or the official endorsement of your organization to this policy statement, please contact the DaVinci Group by e-mail at chiro@chiropractic.org.