



September 14, 2011

Melissa Lewis, Executive Director  
NACIQI, USDOE  
Rm. 8060,  
1990 K Street, NW  
Washington DC 20006

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This is in response to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity's (NACIQI) August 17<sup>th</sup> announcement of notice regarding review of the petition of the Council on Chiropractic Education's (CCE) for renewal of its recognition as an accrediting agency.

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) submits the following comments in support of CCE's renewed recognition by NACIQI and notes that it intends to submit a request at the appropriate time to provide oral comment during NACIQI's December 14-16 meeting. The ACA is a professional society of doctors of chiropractic (DC) whose goal is to promote the highest standards of ethics and essential patient care, contributing to the health and well being of millions of patients. The ACA is the largest association in America representing the chiropractic profession.

The ACA has great respect for the CCE's accreditation protocols and principles. We perceive them to be mission driven, peer reviewed, and both evidence and outcome based. ACA recognizes the essential value of institutional accreditation, which is to bring an assurance to the profession and the public it serves that the educational process produces competent providers and that its institutional process has integrity.

As the largest organization representing doctors of chiropractic, ACA is in a position to be well informed about the results of CCE's work. We have perceived over time a consistent improvement in the quality of chiropractic education, which we believe is the result of CCE's programs and active leadership. We are pleased to note that the vast majority of state boards of chiropractic licensure agree with this, as is evidenced by their requirement that their licensees have graduated from chiropractic colleges that are CCE accredited.

It is our belief that CCE's presence also serves the federal government well as an additional stakeholder. CCE's organizational excellence allows the federal government

to maintain its posture allowing this profession to continue to self-regulate itself through the specialized accreditation of its chiropractic colleges.

The ACA appreciates this opportunity to share with you its support for CCE's accreditation programs. We invite you to request clarification about any statements offered herein; should you wish to pursue this, please contact our Executive Vice President, Bill O'Connell (202-816-0206). Also, we look forward to sharing our comments with your colleagues in December. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick McMichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick McMichael, DC  
President, ACA

cc ACA Board of Governors  
ACC Board  
CCE Board