

# Legislative Fact Sheet

## *Modifying Coverage of Chiropractic Services in the Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare Programs*



### **SF 595–Senator Bill Lieske (R 58)**

*Senators Paul Utke (R 5), John Hoffman (DFL 34),  
Calvin Bahr (R 31) and Robert Kupec (DFL 4)*

### **HF 97–Rep John Huot (DFL 56B)**

*Reps. Erin Koegel (DFL 39A), Joe Schomacker (R 21A), Steve  
Elkins (DFL 50B), Bernie Perryman (R 14A), Dave Baker (R 16B), Liz  
Reyer (DFL 52A) and Andy Smith (DFL 25B)*

1. Chiropractic doctors care for patients with a wide range of health problems, providing physician-level services including **consultation, examination, diagnosis, treatment and patient management, and referral to and from medical specialists and diagnostic centers.**
2. Chiropractic doctors are well trained to provide clinically effective, non-pharmacologic care to patients with **common neuromusculoskeletal problems** such as back and neck pain – now recognized as the leading cause of days lost due to disability.
3. Peer-reviewed research and industry reports suggest that early chiropractic treatment for spine-related pain leads to **better outcomes, lower total costs, and high patient satisfaction.** For back pain, **practice guidelines** published by the **American College of Physicians** and the **CDC** recommend using **nonpharmacologic** treatment methods commonly provided by chiropractors.
4. Medical Assistance patients must have equal access to all the necessary care that may be beneficial **without paying out-of-pocket** for services otherwise available from other providers, including medical physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and physical therapists.
5. Currently, chiropractic patients are asked to sign an **Advance Recipient Notice of Non-Covered Service** informing them of their obligation to personally pay for services within the Doctor of Chiropractic's scope of practice but not reimbursable in the Medical Assistance Program. These services include:
  - All clinically indicated physical examinations
  - Supervised in-office rehabilitative exercises
  - Other non-manipulative and rehabilitative therapies

**On October 23, 2023, the Health Services Advisory Council (HSAC), whose membership includes physicians, other health care providers, and a consumer representative, voted to recommend expanding coverage for the full scope of chiropractic services in Minnesota's public health care programs.**

6. **There should be no barriers** preventing low-income Minnesotans from receiving the clinically effective, cost-efficient care provided by chiropractic doctors, and no discrimination in terms of either coverage for services or reimbursement based on the type of licensed healthcare provider.

**Please support this legislation is in the best interest of low-income patients who often pay out-of-pocket when they receive care from chiropractic doctors.**

**If you are interested in receiving peer-reviewed research reports focused on the clinical efficacy and cost-efficiency of chiropractic care for spine pain, don't hesitate to get in touch with Northwestern Health Sciences University at: [csawyer@nwhealth.edu](mailto:csawyer@nwhealth.edu)**

**For additional legislative information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr. Cody Holliday, lead lobbyist for the Minnesota Chiropractic Association, at [cholliday@fredgov.com](mailto:cholliday@fredgov.com)**