

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

HB 2523 modifies limits on chiropractors and naturopaths treating injured workers under Workers' Compensation through a managed care organization. I think this measure goes in exactly the wrong direction. It seems to be an effort to equalize the treatment of naturopaths with that of chiropractors by expanding latitude for the latter and granting those same privileges to the former. A much better approach would be to entirely remove chiropractors and naturopaths from eligibility to provide services to injured workers. Both of these fringe professions are based on unscientific, magical thinking. Neither of them should be permitted to drain money from Workers' Compensation with their ineffective and sometimes dangerous nonsense. I would like to see injured workers get the best care possible and that means getting care from real doctors, nurses and physical therapists whose practices are based on science. There is simply no reason to put patients at risk by lending legitimacy to providers who haven't been able to earn it through research and proven efficacy. I hope the committee members will take a close look at these "alternative medicine" providers and not simply bow to political pressure from them. Even minimal research will verify that these professions have no place in health care in the twenty-first century. Fighting against quackery is not easy, but a good place to start is to at least keep it from expanding.

You could just kill this bill, but now that it's been presented this would be a fine opportunity amend HB 2523 to remove chiropractors and naturopaths from the list of medical service providers able to treat injured workers under this section of Workers' Compensation Law.

Thank you,
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