

September 17, 2010

Lee Van Dusen, D.C., President
The Council on Chiropractic Education
8049 N. 85th Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85258-4321



Dear Dr. Van Dusen:

The Georgia Council of Chiropractic (GCC) has grave concerns regarding the recent actions taken by the CCE. These actions include the official recognition of a "Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine Program", as well as the proposed changes to the "standards" for chiropractic education. Chiropractic is a unique offering not duplicated by any other healing art. The educational standards of this profession should be of the highest levels in those concerns unique to our offering.

While the GCC welcomes and applauds efforts by the CCE to update its standards, the proposed changes do not support those tenets unique to the chiropractic profession. The GCC strenuously objects to the arbitrary deletion of all references to the concept of the subluxation and the deletion of the entire section addressing the "Purpose of Chiropractic Education". We also take exception to the proposed modification of the term "Primary Care Chiropractic Physician" to "Chiropractic Primary Care Physician" as well as the proposal to expand the degree programs accredited by the CCE beyond the D.C. degree to "equivalent" degree offerings. The current standards reflect the objectives of a chiropractic education and also define a basic core curriculum that serves as a basis for uniform national testing and licensing procedures. To change the current standards in the way being proposed, does not serve the quality of chiropractic education, and speaks to another agenda.

The GCC expects the CCE to provide to the chiropractic profession, and all of its constituencies, an explanation and a rationale for such significant deletions from the current standards that are not directly related to assuring the quality of education provided in the DC Programs. It is the position of the GCC that the educational standards of the profession should not be used as a vehicle to advance the agenda of one group of chiropractors at the expense of another. It is also the position of the GCC that the proposed deletions from the current standards, whether intentional or not, extend well beyond the role of ensuring a quality chiropractic education.

Chiropractic practice acts in the majority of the states establish chiropractic as an exception to the medical practice acts and strictly prohibit chiropractors from the practice of medicine. Most states define chiropractic as a health care discipline which excludes the use of drugs and surgery. The International Chiropractors Association and the American Chiropractic Association as well as the World Federation of Chiropractic, representing 85 national chiropractic associations, have officially endorsed the ACC Paradigm and have, in various forms, affirmed a position that Chiropractic is separate and distinct from medicine and excludes the use of drugs and surgery. With an overwhelming majority of the chiropractic profession in agreement on these points, there fails to be reason for the CCE's proposed standards changes.

The GCC, as well as most of the chiropractic profession, anxiously anticipates receiving a report which outlines and responds to the concerns and comments received during this comment cycle as well as an explanation and rationale for the decisions made by the CCE with respect to those issues.

Sincerely,

Robert Braile, DC President,
On behalf of the Officers and Board of the Georgia Council of Chiropractic

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