



CHIROPRACTIC TAKES CHARGE AS OPIOID EPIDEMIC SWEEPS NATION

With the April death of musician Prince due to an overdose of Fentanyl, the country's population has been directed to the growing epidemic of opioid abuse and accidental overdoses. With more and more groups calling for stricter oversight of opioid prescriptions, chiropractic has stepped to the plate as the go-to choice for pain relief and management.

In fact, a Fox News opinion piece titled "Pain's Secret Message: Why Prince Didn't Need to Die" specifically called for chiropractic and muscle manipulation to be the go-to choice. Written by Jacob Teitlebaum, M.D., the piece calls for addressing the underlying causes of pain rather than masking symptoms with pain medication.

According to the American Chiropractic Association, the House of Representatives passed 18 bills related to opioids in May, and the Senate approved a comprehensive bill in March. While most of the House bills were related to further education, there were several that could lead to enhanced roles for the nation's chiropractors in battling this relatively new scourge. HR 4969, the John Thomas Decker Act, directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to study what information and resources are available to youth athletes and their families regarding the dangers of opioid use, non-opioid treatment options and how to seek addition treatment. HR 4981, the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, amends the Controlled Substances Act to Ensure patients have access to a wider range of comprehensive, evidence-based treatment options, and helps minimize the potential for drug diversion.

"...addressing the underlying causes of pain rather than masking symptoms with pain medication"

'It's clear that the federal government has recognized the toll opioid overuse and addiction has taken on this country and is taking positive steps to address this epidemic,' said ACA President David Herd, D.C. 'Efforts must now be directed toward educating health care providers and the public about conservative forms of pain management that can be used as a first line of defense in treatment – and expanding access to those services.'