

**IT IS TIME TO ENLIST!**  
**James D. Edwards, D.C.**  
**Chairman of the ACA Board of Governors**

The enemies of chiropractic have declared war on this profession and chiropractic is now fighting for our continued existence. I am proud to tell you that the American Chiropractic Association has taken up arms against our enemies and is fighting battle after battle in defense of your practice and your patients.

To every ACA dues-paying member and Legal Action Fund contributor, I want to salute you for doing your part. It is your continued financial support that has allowed the ACA volunteer leadership, along with the 40 dedicated men and women who serve on the ACA staff, to accomplish victory after victory after victory!

And for non-members who have been sitting on the sidelines...it's time for you to engage the enemy. Take a moment and read what the ACA has been doing for you and your patients. You be the judge if the ACA is protecting chiropractic at the national level. You be the judge if these ACA battles and victories have earned your support!

- The ACA continues pursuing the federal Department of Health and Human Services lawsuit that has resulted in HCFA reversing its policy that physical therapists can provide the chiropractic benefit. The heart of the lawsuit is protection of the right of doctors of chiropractic to correct subluxations and not be substituted by medical doctors or other health care providers. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recently filed a petition to intervene claiming that PT's have always "corrected a subluxation" even though they call it something else.
- The ACA and VCA filed a federal lawsuit against Trigon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Virginia and the national Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association for severely limiting reimbursement for and access to chiropractic care. On July 23, the federal judge ruled that the case may move forward, allowing six of the eight counts against BCBS to remain in the case. The court's ruling opens the door for the all important discovery phase to begin.
- The ACA and ACC were responsible for passage of legislation to create a permanent chiropractic benefit for all active-duty military personnel, set a minimum floor for scope of practice, and fully engage doctors of chiropractic on the DoD Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) in development and implementation of the new benefit. The ACA and ACC are now seeking additional appropriation funds to speed up the integration of chiropractic care in the DoD health care system.

- The ACA and ACC were responsible for adding language to the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act that required the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a policy for the Veterans Health Administration regarding chiropractic treatment for veterans. The ACA and ACC are now working on legislation that would mandate direct access to a broad scope of chiropractic services in the VA health care system.
- The ACA fought successfully to get a doctor of chiropractic on the staff of the U.S. Congress Office of the Attending Physician. For the first time, members of Congress are now receiving chiropractic adjustments on the Capitol premises. Because of the popularity of chiropractic among members of Congress, a second doctor of chiropractic has been added to the staff.
- The ACA's federal political action committee has a very strong political presence in Washington, D.C. During the last four election cycles (8 years), the ACA has contributed almost \$2,500,000 (\$2.5 million) to pro-chiropractic candidates! (The second largest chiropractic PAC contributed only \$136,000 during the same period.)
- The ACA worked with Congressman Wes Watkins to introduce HR 902, which would reimburse DCs for all Medicare services within their states' scope of practice. The ACA will work to incorporate the legislative language contained in H.R. 902 in any Medicare reform bill moving through Congress and will strongly oppose a competing bill offered by another association that does not provide reimbursement for full scope practice.
- To ease the large debt of chiropractic students and recent graduates, the ACA, the ACC and the 4,500 student ACA members fought to increase access to student loan repayment programs. As a result, the Senate HELP Committee moved to include for the first time ever doctors of chiropractic in the National Health Service Corps' (NHSC) loan reimbursement program.

Any one of these battles and/or victories more than justifies your membership in the ACA. Any one of them!

Theodore Roosevelt said,

“Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”

Today, there is an organization that is “improving conditions within your sphere” like never before. It is time for every DC to join in the battle against chiropractic’s enemies. It is time for every DC to join the ACA so more battles can be fought and more victories won. It is time for every DC to ENLIST!

If you have comments or wish to receive an ACA application, contact Dr. Edwards at [JamesEdwards@JamesEdwards.com](mailto:JamesEdwards@JamesEdwards.com)