

## Learning from George W. Bush



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On Nov. 25, 2002, my fellow Texan George W. Bush signed a bill into law that combined 22 governmental agencies into the Department of Homeland Security. Foremost among the agencies that were consolidated were those that protect this country by air, land, and sea, including the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Transportation, and the Customs Service.

So why is the ACA chairman talking about the United States Department of Homeland Security? Simple. There is a lesson to be learned from the formation of this important new department.

Before the formation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, all 22 agencies felt they were doing a good job defending this country and saw no reason for unification. They felt that way even though they were not sharing intelligence data and were needlessly duplicating services.

Isn't that where the chiropractic profession is today? We have multiple national organizations needlessly duplicating services and all saying they are the voice of the chiropractic profession. As a result, the U.S. Congress is confused about who represents chiropractic and what it is that we really want. We have multiple organizations trotting up to "the Hill" giving conflicting testimony on almost every issue that is considered. As a result, far too many chiropractic legislative efforts are harmed or defeated.

Just as President Bush combined 22 various agencies and voices into one cohesive unit, the chiropractic profession must do the same. Instead of having multiple organizations speaking to Congress and policy makers, it is time for chiropractic to speak with one voice.

In the December 2002 issue of *ACA Today* (distributed to 60,000 DCs through *Dynamic Chiropractic*), I authored an article entitled, "Refusing to Take 'No' for an Answer." In that article (signaling a shift in ACA policy), I pointed out seven reasons why joint efforts with the ICA had not worked and outlined why the ACA was not interested in pursuing further joint efforts with the ICA.

I also pointed out that the ACA's decision to forgo further joint legislative efforts would stop masking and stop perpetuating the real problem: disunity. Although the ICA continues to say that multiple organizations are good for chiropractic—likening it to having Democratic and Republican parties—it is simply wrong. When the United States needs to protect

itself, Republicans and Democrats must work together under one flag.

However, the central theme of my article was that even though "joint efforts" had not worked, the ACA remained very much in favor of a merger with the ICA. The ACA remains committed to merger because the official policies of both organizations are almost identical and because a merger would allow our small profession to stop wasting its limited resources on needless duplication of services.

The ACA has an official policy on professional unity that was passed by the ACA House of Delegates in 2000. It reads as follows:

*"The American Chiropractic Association reaffirms its policy in favor of professional unity and invites the International Chiropractors Association to join the ACA in forming a 'Unity Committee' that will be charged with the responsibility of developing a merger proposal that will be presented to both organizations for formal adoption at the earliest possible time."*

As the title of my article stated, the ACA will no longer accept "no" for an answer from the ICA because, in the final analysis, it is not the ICA's right to say no. Only the chiropractic profession has a right to make that decision. As the ACA chairman, I re-invite the ICA to form a "Unity Committee" so we can eventually merge at the earliest possible time. Once that happens, we can begin speaking with one voice and be better able to defend, protect,

and promote the profession we all love.

The chiropractic profession needs to learn a lesson from President George W. Bush. When the security of the United States is concerned, all must

unite for that common goal. And when the security of this profession is concerned, we must all unite into one organization for the common goal: the defense of the chiropractic profession. ▼

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## NOTICE OF RADIOLOGY EXAMINATION

The American Chiropractic Board of Radiology (ACBR) would like to announce that the 2003 ACBR Part I examination leading to Diplomate status will be held on **April 5 & 6, 2003**.

The deadline for all applications and questions is February 8, 2003 and the fee is \$800.

Applications and additional information are available on the ACBR Web site: [www.acbr.org](http://www.acbr.org) or [www.dacbr.com](http://www.dacbr.com)

## GRANDFATHERING DIPLOMATE IN NUTRITION

The American Clinical Board of Nutrition (ACBN)\* will allow the grandfathering of chiropractors meeting eligibility requirements from January 1, 2003 through April 30, 2003.

For a complete description, eligibility and application, visit our Web site at [www.acbn.org](http://www.acbn.org) or call Arthur Fierro, DC, DACBN, secretary to the ACBN, at 540/434-2495.

*\*Formerly the American Chiropractic Board of Nutrition*