



July 28, 2025

Former Congressman Garret Graves
PO Box 64845
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

RE: Doctors of Chiropractic Are Essential Health Professionals

Dear Former Congressman Graves:

On behalf of the members of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA), I am writing regarding the July 27 article by Jack Brook, “**Louisiana cancels \$3 billion coastal restoration project funded by oil**” that was distributed worldwide by the Associated Press. The article, regarding the potential loss of coastal restoration funds from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Settlement Fund, is an important topic which warrants a serious discussion.

Statements attributed to you in the article include “I don’t know what chiropractor or palm reader they got advice from on this but – baffling that someone thought this was a good idea.” This quote from you has no place in such a serious discussion and implies that chiropractors lack credibility. Whether provided as a cheap shot at the profession or out of a lack of understanding of the strong evidence-base supporting the safety and benefit of regular chiropractic care, your quote undermines the valuable work of more than 100,000 Doctors of Chiropractic in the United States including the more than 700 in the state of Louisiana.

Chiropractors (Doctors of Chiropractic):

- Recognized as Essential Health Care Providers by the US Government.
- Physician level providers in Medicare, Medicaid, DOD and VA.
- Licensed in Every US State.
- Chiropractic Care is a covered service in Medicare, Medicaid, US military and Veterans Administration health care.
- Extensive licensing and educational requirements:
 - 3-4 Year Graduate Degree requiring minimum of 7 years undergraduate with science pre-requisites. All US Chiropractic Programs are Accredited by the CCE, which is US Department of Education approved.
 - Licensure requires passage of 4 Board Exams provided by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) exams and fulfilling any state-specific licensing requirements.
- Safety of chiropractic validated through medical malpractice rates that are among the lowest in health care.
- Research including studies conducted by the US Defense Department show benefits of chiropractic care for improved performance, strength, and recovery.
- Studies show that for patients in pain, chiropractic is first line of care, the rate of opioid prescriptions being filled is reduced by at least 50%.
- Workman’s Compensation Research Institute Study found chiropractic care was less expensive for on-the-job injuries, and that employees returned to work more quickly.



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The International Chiropractors Association, established in 1926 by the developer of chiropractic, Dr. B.J. Palmer played and continues to play a pivotal role in the development of the chiropractic profession. We worked to get state licensure and today to continue to keep chiropractic a drug-free profession. Today our membership is in every US state and 50 countries around the world. Chiropractic is an essential choice for the 12% of the global population who deal with back pain every year as well as a whole person care approach for people of all ages and all states of health. Chiropractic is about promoting the body's own innate healing capacity and regular chiropractic care.

In the 1960s chiropractors were belittled and attacked by the organized medical community. Several doctors at the ICA filed a federal Sherman Act violation against the American Medical Association (AMA). Seventeen years in the federal courts and in 1987 a federal judge found the AMA guilty of violating antitrust laws by orchestrating a boycott against chiropractors. The court determined that the AMA's actions, including informing members that associating with chiropractors was unethical, constituted an unreasonable restraint of trade. This led to a permanent injunction against the AMA, preventing them from hindering professional associations between medical doctors and chiropractors. The vestiges of the bias created during that decades long attack.

I respectfully request that you take corrective action regarding chiropractic. Issue a public statement through social media or even join me on a podcast to talk about chiropractic and its value.

Sincerely,

Edwin Cordero, DC, FICA
Chief Executive Officer
International Chiropractors Association