



D.Duemling  
July 12, 2010

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I think everyone in this room would agree that access to primary care is one of the most important shifts we must make as we re-vision our health care system. Are you willing to limit patient's rights to work with the provider of their choice before we even get out of the gates?

I would be happy to provide to you studies that show cost-savings, and effective treatment options using Chiropractic. Please let me know and I will have those sent along for you to review. If evidence based medicine is one of your core values, I would hope this sort of information is being taken into account.

My primary focus today is to ask the Board to consider the patients who will be receiving this care. As Board members review the recommendations being provided by the various committees, I hope you will each take a minute and ask yourself if ALL patients are being considered. Will patients who choose non-pharmaceutical care for themselves and their families find adequate coverage under the Essential Benefit Package? Right now, I am not convinced they will.

And, I would be remiss if I did not address the elephant in the room. If we are talking about a true paradigm shift in how we understand and deliver care, but are using lists that were developed for the 'old system' how far down the reform road are we actually traveling? It seems to me that one thing Chiropractic Physicians bring to the table is a whole person approach to health care. We don't just treat the acute issue, we look at lifestyle and health and wellness issues, we provide patient education and ongoing support for our patients. I've heard so many discussions about shifting our delivery system focus, but have not seen any of the folks currently involved in this reform reach out to providers who are ALREADY providing this kind of care.

I look forward to further discussion about how we can ensure the voices of all health care providers and all patients are heard as this package develops. Oregon has been, and will continue to be, a leader in Health Care Reform around the nation. I look forward to working with you to ensure that Health Care Reform shifts not just how we deliver Health Care, but also how we define it.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

David Duemling, D.C.



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Dear Committee Members,

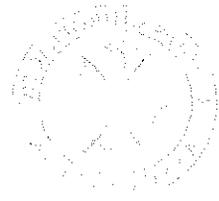
Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony today. After reviewing the recommendations regarding the Essential Benefit Package I am both hopeful and trepidatious.

Hopeful because this package is yet one more step toward providing expanded access to health care. With an emphasis on preventive and primary care, the essential benefits package is one of the keys to shifting our delivery system. It is one more tool in our quest to provide BASIC HEALTH CARE to all Oregonians.

However, my helpfulness ends at the conceptual level. After having reviewed the documents made available online last week, I find that the definition of the specific benefits of this package will be based on the current prioritized list used by the Oregon Health Plan. As you well know, that list is created and maintained by the Health Services Commission, a body made up of four Medical Doctors, one Doctor of Osteopathy, one Registered Nurse, a Master's of Social Work, a Dentist and a handful of members of the public. Given the current make up of this Commission, are we able to take seriously the promise that alternative and complimentary care will be included in the Essential Benefits Package?

When I review the definition of Value-Based services, one of the core elements for determination of inclusion, ("value-based services are medications, tests, or treatments that are highly effective, low cost, and have a lot of evidence supporting their use") it seems to me a natural fit for many treatments provided by Chiropractic Physicians, as well as Naturopaths and other complementary and alternative health care providers. And, as I review the four tiers of cost sharing, I see several places where Chiropractic would be able to provide the most cost effective and efficient care for the patient. But I am concerned that the voices currently making these decisions are not able to add this information to the discussion.

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As health care reform here in Oregon struggles to define itself and as federal mandates for universal coverage loom, it behooves us to look broadly, and realistically, at our current system. To discuss preventive care and a shifting of our delivery system WITHOUT including Doctors of Chiropractic or other Complementary and Alternative Health Care providers is more than an oversight, it shows an unwillingness to truly embrace the very shift we are working towards.

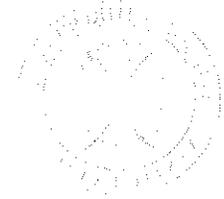
As a licensed physician in this State I have treated an estimated 15,000 Oregonians over the course of my career and I have been actively involved in advocating for my profession, at both the state and federal level. I have worked as the primary sports physician for the Portland Vikings Football Team and have lectured around the country about health, wellness and the importance of preventive care. Yet right here in Oregon, my voice is not being heard.

As you move forward as a Board and prepare recommendations for the Legislature, I ask that you take seriously your responsibility to represent ALL health care providers and modalities in these reforms. I encourage you to invite a panel of Chiropractic Physicians to a meeting to ask for input and insight from an alternative perspective to supplement the work already done. And, I am hopeful that you will reconsider the current committee and task force assignments and begin making appointments that more fully represent the spectrum of health care providers in our state.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Ferrante



July 7, 2010

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**Oregon Health Policy Board  
500 Summer Street NE  
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**Dear Committee Members,**

Thank you for taking time today to consider my testimony on behalf of the Oregon Chiropractic Association. Myself and my members have been watching your work over the past several months and are excited at the continued forward movement toward true health care reform.

However, I come before you today to share a concern about the voices currently at the table. After reviewing the membership of your Board, The Health Care Workforce Committee, The Health Incentives and Outcomes Committee, the Medical Liability Task Force, the Oregon Health Improvement Plan, the Patient-Centered Primary Care Home Committee, the Health Services Committee along with several other committees and task forces, I could not find a SINGLE Doctor of Chiropractic as an appointee. Neither did I find any other representatives from the Complementary and Alternative Health Care professions.

As we make an effort to shift the paradigm from treating illness to providing preventive and whole patient care, including health care professionals who already practice from this perspective is only logical.

Right now there are 1,450 active Chiropractic Physicians in Oregon. From 1991 to 2009 licensed Doctors of Chiropractic increased by 25% here in Oregon, providing over 4,000 jobs.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Oregon is home to the University of Western States which graduates, on average, 150 physicians a year.

<sup>1</sup>Wallis, Lynn. "Alternative Health Care can be good for what ails you." OLMIS, March 24, 2010. Available at: <http://www.olmis.org/olmisj/ArticleReader?itemid=00005800>.