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ROBERT ROSENBAUM, MD FAANS FACS

November 7, 2016

Sunset Advisory Commission  
1501 North Congress Avenue,  
6th Floor, Robert E. Johnson Building,  
Austin, TX  
78701

Dear Members of Sunset Advisory Commission

I'm writing to support the right of a Doctor of Chiropractic to diagnose. After 20 years in the US Navy, I continue to volunteer at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as a board certified neurosurgeon with an emphasis on emerging technology (including spinal endoscopy, stem cell therapies and CAM - complimentary and alternative medicine) . I've worked with providers on 4 continents and more than a dozen countries. Those beside whom I've had the honor to serve could easily be considered among the most dedicated and skilled practitioners in health care. We have accepted the care provided by our peers in the Chiropractic profession. [Williams, V. F., Clark, L. L., & McNellis, M. G. (2016). Use of complementary health approaches at military treatment facilities, active component, US Armed Forces, 2010-2015. MSMR, 23(7), 9.]

As we train the residents at Walter Reed, identifying the disease process which generates the patient's complaint is an essential piece of the health care chain. There are few more able diagnosticians as the members of the Chiropractic community. We regularly hosted visiting Chiropractic students on my service and clinic at Walter Reed Neurosurgery. These students, despite their relative deficit in comparison of years of formal education versus the typical neurosurgical resident, were sharp and accurate with localization and identification of pathology. Through a thorough history and meticulous examination these young chiropractors in training were capable of generating clean efficient differential diagnosis with far fewer tests than their allopathic peers. This is likely due in large part to their focused training and in depth understanding of anatomy and physiology.

More senior, established practitioners of the art/science of Chiropractic have provided years of medical alliance with early accurate diagnosis of patients' disease/ processes which otherwise had fallen through the medical cracks or were being treated as a more benign process by other providers.

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In this day of restricted access and increasing need for effective accurate medical care, restricting the ability of members of the Chiropractic community to diagnose would further withhold the safety and care which are contracting in health care today.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Rosenbaum", enclosed within a large, irregular oval scribble.

Robert E. Rosenbaum, MD FAANS FACS

USN - Retired

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