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To: Pennsylvania House of Representatives
From: Raymond J. Benedetto, DC, DACNB
PCA President
RE: Senate Bill 936
Date: February 5, 2018

As the President of the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association (PCA), which represents the interests of more than 4,000 state-licensed Doctors of Chiropractic (and small business owners), the PCA is gravely concerned about proposed legislation that would establish a “one-size-fits-all” approach to patient care within Pennsylvania’s Workers’ Compensation system.

As I am sure you can appreciate, your personal health care needs should remain individualized to your particular health issues and not treated with a “cookie-cutter” approach, as clearly recommended in Senate Bill 936.

Senate Bill 936 would impose a “drug formulary” that would restrict health care providers’ options in treating injured workers. The bill would also establish standards for UROs (Utilization Review Organizations) and PROs (Peer Review Organizations) that may or may not fit the needs of workers’ compensation patients. We view this as an insurance industry initiative to reduce their costs, quite evidently with little concern for the injured worker.

This key question remains unanswered in SB 936: how does limiting treatment choices, likely delaying patients’ recovery and return to work reduce costs?

The PCA considers Senate Bill 936 a “back-door” attempt to insert the flawed notion of “evidence-based” directives into our workers’ compensation system. We have repeatedly made it known that we are more than willing to effectively address utilization concerns and to seek true, system-wide cost containment, WITHOUT compromising the injured employees’ treatment, recovery and return to work.

PCA is on-record in the Senate, the House and the Governor’s Office as advocating for and strongly supporting the clinical concept of “*Conservative Care First*” (CCF), a drug-free and surgery-free first point of contact, where clinically indicated, between the injured employee and her/ his doctor. CCF makes much more clinical and financial sense than placing injured patients under restrictive guidelines that compromises individualized treatment by intruding on the patient-doctor relationship and most importantly, will not result in the most expeditious and healthy return of the employee to the workplace.

In short, Senate Bill 936 is the proverbial “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” It will cede inappropriate control to insurance carrier adjusters, who will act as health providers, effectively interfering with health providers making educated and informed decisions in the best interests of injured patients.

We urge you to do the right thing: **PROTECT INJURED PATIENTS. VOTE NO ON SENATE BILL 936!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raymond J. Benedetto, DC, DACNB
President, 2018