



Opioid Epidemic

Background Information

The opioid epidemic continues to be a problem in the State of Illinois and across the nation. In 2015, Illinois passed legislation that made some progress to address the growing epidemic. However, there is still work to do.

The nature of the conditions chiropractic physicians treat (including chronic pain) makes it likely that chiropractic physicians frequently see patients who are experiencing a prescription drug abuse problem.

The Issue

Using chiropractic to treat pain has the potential to reduce the number of individuals that become addicted to prescription drugs. Chiropractic treats pain in a way that does not require prescription medication. Therefore, the patient can achieve the pain relief he/she desires without the use of prescription drugs.

Chiropractic is useful to mitigate the opioid epidemic for a number of reasons:

- ✓ **Chiropractic care is Natural First:** Chiropractic care is a drug free approach to providing pain relief to patients. Chiropractic care is also a non-invasive approach.
- ✓ **Chiropractic care is safe:** Chiropractic physicians are well trained and educated in providing care to their patients.
- ✓ **Chiropractic care is effective:** Chiropractic care has high levels of patient satisfaction with minimal cost associated.

Legislative Recommended Action

To support the use of natural methods, including chiropractic, to help with the treatment of chronic pain.