

A Message from the ICS

Each and every day, the ICS works diligently to educate the members of the General Assembly, State agencies, and the Governor's Office on the importance and value of chiropractic care in Illinois. This includes, but is not limited to: lobbying legislators regarding the ICS position on important legislation, educating members of a legislative taskforce, discussing issues with key State Agency Personnel, and engaging in lawsuits to fight injustices.

As a lobbyist, I do many of those things every day. However, the single most important aspect that helps make me successful at those tasks is the engagement of our members. I can have multiple meetings with legislators regarding chiropractic care issues, but I can never be their constituent.

Legislators need and want to hear from their constituents. When legislators hear from chiropractic physicians in their districts, it makes our message more powerful and meaningful. Legislators like to know how the people of their district are impacted by certain pieces of legislation. They need to know that the health care bill or insurance bill impacts their own families, small business owners, and voters. This is where you come in.

I encourage you to meet with your legislators and create relationships with them. This will allow the legislators to fully understand the scope of impact of all of our issues. If you are concerned about what to say to a legislator or how to have a meeting with him or her, this guide is here to help. Also, we at the ICS are here to help you. If you have questions or concerns about how to engage your legislator, do not hesitate to contact us.

Most importantly, remember that you are a chiropractic physician and a constituent. The legislator does not expect you to be an expert on complex policy. He or she is more interested in your personal story and how the policy affects you. If a legislator asks a question to which you do not have an answer, never hesitate to say: "Representative, I'm not certain about that point, but I would love to get you that information. Would you mind if I have someone from my association follow up with you?" Despite what the media portrays, in politics you are only as good as your word - and trust is paramount. We want legislators to have accurate, factual information.

Once you have met with your legislator, we ask that you please fill out the feedback form on the ICS website. This form will help us provide the legislators any of the follow up items they have requested. The form also helps the ICS know which meetings have occurred. The link to the form is here: <http://www.ilchiro.org/surveys/?id=legfeedback>

Remember, our goal is that a legislator who is presented with a chiropractic care issue will think of you, his or her constituent. We want them to identify with our chiropractic physicians and, therefore, our issues.

Sincerely,

Lindsay K. Wagahoff, MA
Dir. Of Government Relations

