

## Congressman Norwood Calls Chiropractors to Action

Editorial Staff

On April 23, 1997, the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act (PARCA) was introduced in the U.S. Congress. The bill will establish a set of national standards governing the conduct of health insurance plans, including managed care and self-insured ERISA plans, which are currently exempted from regulation at the state level.

The two most important elements of the proposed legislation are that all U.S. employees have access to a point of service plan (POS), and the prohibition against discrimination of providers "solely based on their license." POS plans have only been available over the last 10 years, but are becoming very popular, primarily because they allow enrollees the option of accessing a provider outside the network for a reasonable additional cost.

The legislation was introduced in the Senate as bill number S 644 and in the House of Representatives as bill number HR 1415. Initial drafts were developed by the Coalition for Health Care Choice and Accountability. The Coalition, initially formed by the American Chiropractic Association, includes 31 different health care provider associations of all types, including nurses, surgeons, MDs and dentists. The ACA has maintained a leadership role in the Coalition.

When the PARCA Bill was initially presented in Dynamic Chiropractic (please see "Patient Access Bill Brought Before Congress" in the May 31, 1997 issue), there were only 80 co-sponsors. PARCA now has 150. Only 50 more co-sponsors and the bill will be introduced on the House floor.

### Your Role

Contact your Congressional representative and ask them to support Congressman Norwood's Patient Access to Responsible Care Act (PARCA). If you have Internet access, you can find your representatives' e-mail address at [\[url=http://www.house.gov\]](http://www.house.gov)[http://www.house.gov/\[url\]](http://www.house.gov/[url]) and your senators' e-mail addresses at [\[url=http://www.senate.gov\]](http://www.senate.gov)[http://www.senate.gov/\[url\]](http://www.senate.gov/[url]).

If you don't know who your representatives are, you can access [\[url=http://www.vote-smart.org\]](http://www.vote-smart.org)[http://www.vote-smart.org/\[url\]](http://www.vote-smart.org/[url]). Simply enter your zip code, and this website will tell you who your Congressional representative is and who your senators are. This site gives you their e-mail addresses. With that information, you can quickly e-mail your request for their support of PARCA.

In particular, representatives from the states of California, Illinois, New York and Texas are being targeted. This is a list of those who have yet to become co-sponsors. Please e-mail, fax, call or write them now. There is a House Education and Workforce Committee hearing set for October 23rd. They need to hear from you by then.

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