



Maryland Chiropractic Association

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The Maryland Chiropractic Association has been the voice of the chiropractic profession and the patients we serve for over 90 years. We are proud to be part of the healthcare community in Maryland and are honored to serve its citizens. As part of our commitment to keeping Marylanders healthy and safe, the chiropractic profession has been actively engaged in and strives to maintain, safe work environments for employees as well as those who we partner with in clinical practice. During the COVID-19 pandemic, chiropractic practices have diligently followed the guidelines set forth by the CDC, the State Department of Health, as well as any and all local county ordinances and regulations.

Although we agree that all Maryland Essential Workers deserve the utmost protection, at this time we must respectfully oppose HB 581.

HB 581 seeks to address issues related to essential workers during a state of emergency without recognizing that industries and job sectors are incredibly different. This bill, unfortunately, does not take into consideration the various levels of risk associated with different types of employment positions in chiropractic as well as other healthcare practices. There are certain members of healthcare teams that can do their job remotely, but there are also those whose physical presence is required but their risk of exposure remains quite low. It should be noted that the CDC provides guidance on assessing the risk of health care providers based on several factors, (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>) but HB 581 fails to include this criteria when determining the scope of the proposed legislation.

Furthermore, we believe that HB 581, if passed in its current form, places an undue financial burden on smaller healthcare practices, such as chiropractic offices, that have already seen historic drops in revenue over the past year. If enacted, this legislation would require a practice spend an extra \$26,700 (4



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essential staff members including the chiropractor). The average chiropractic office gross revenue has remained relatively unchanged since 2018. (https://cdn.chiroeco.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CHEC_08_2020_FULL-1.pdf) Accounting for taxes, overhead, cost of living, and declining reimbursement by insurers, an extra \$26,700 of expense will not be sustainable for many offices to remain functional. Many, if not all, chiropractic practices already pay their employees a living wage and offer generous benefits and PTO for health reasons. The mandated expenses outlined in this bill constitute a significant financial burden for essential healthcare providers already stretched to their breaking point. For this reason, we must oppose HB 581.

For questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Mark Wells, DC (301.633.9801) or Ashlie Bagwell (443.800.4506).