**LETTER TEMPLATE**

**INSERT STATE ASSOCIATION OR CLINIC LOGO**

**RE: Request for Formal Proclamation Commemorating September 2020: Drug-Free Pain Management Month**

**July XX, 2020**

The Honorable First Name, Last Name

Street Address

City/Town, State, Zip Code

Dear TITLE (Governor, Assembly) AND LAST NAME,

In response to the ongoing opioid crisis and alarming death rate both nationally and in our state, our organization requests that you sponsor a formal proclamation commemorating September 2020 as Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month.

In light of the following statistics, we are launching this campaign with the full support of our members statewide:

* In 2018, more than [168 million](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxrate-maps.html) opioid prescriptions were dispensed in the U.S.
* In [2017](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html), the number of overdose deaths involving any opioid was 6 times higher than it was in 1999.
* [80](https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin)% of heroin users reported using prescription opioids prior to heroin.
* We are losing [128](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html) people a day from opioid overdoses.

Chiropractic care is a drug-free, evidence-based and primary option for pain management that yields improved clinical outcomes, reduced costs and high levels of patient satisfaction. In March 2018, *The Lancet* recommended spinal manipulation as an effective approach to manage low back pain in its new three-part series – 94% of spinal manipulations in the U.S. are performed by a doctor of chiropractic.

Please take this opportunity to visit [www.drugfreepaincare.org](http://www.drugfreepaincare.org) and review the papers: ‘[*Chiropractic: A Safer Strategy than Opioids,*](http://www.f4cp.com/files/press-releases/2016/6.6.16OpioidWhitePaper.pdf)’ ‘[*Chiropractic: A Key to America’s Opioid Exit Strategy*](http://www.f4cp.com/files/industry-news/f4cp-opioids-2.0-white-paper-web.pdf)*,*’ and ‘[*As the Opioid Epidemic Rages On, Chiropractic Care is Recognized As A Safer Option for Pain*](https://www.f4cp.org/package/home/viewfile/broopioid-3-0-ebook).’

We have prepared a proclamation for review. Please see the accompanying document.

Please help to advance the accessibility of care that is drug-free, safer and effective, as well as cost-effective. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this proclamation.

Sincerely,

FIRST NAME, LAST NAME

TITLE, ORGANIZATION

EMAIL; PHONE NUMBER