**PROCLAMATION**

A proclamation supporting the goals of ending opioid abuse and misuse, advancing utilization and accessibility of drug-free chiropractic care, and designating September 2022 as Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month.

Whereas, prescription opioid use and abuse leading to addiction and catastrophic outcomes remains a national crisis;

Whereas the [leading cause of injury death](https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/injury-prevention#:~:text=Interventions%20to%20prevent%20different%20types,and%20most%20overdoses%20involve%20opioids.)in the United States is drug overdose, and a majority of the deaths from drug overdose deaths involved an opioid;

Whereas from 1999 to 2020, more than [263,000](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/prescription/overview.html) Americans have lost their lives to overdoses involving prescription opioids;

Whereas overdose deaths involving prescription opioids nearly increased by five times from 1999 to [2020](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/prescription/overview.html);

Whereas we are losing [187](https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html) people a day from opioid overdoses and [68,630](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html) people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S. in 2020 (74.8% of all drug overdose deaths);

Whereas the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the U.S. is estimated around [$78.5 billion](https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis) a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement;

Whereas prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck and musculoskeletal pain management;

Whereas over 100 million suffer with chronic pain and an estimated 80 percent of all Americans will experience some form of back pain during their life time;

Whereas doctors of chiropractic (DCs) are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and neuromusculoskeletal pain with non-surgical, non-drug management;

Whereas numerous published studies, including *The Lancet* (March 2018), document spinal manipulation as effective for the management of low back pain;

Whereas the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* (WHO) published recommendations to manage low back pain initially with non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as spinal manipulation (chiropractic adjustments), while avoiding opioids, spinal injections and surgery;

Now, therefore, be it resolved,that September 2022 be declared Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month, to raise public awareness that chiropractic care is a primary first-line, non-pharmacologic approach to safely and effectively relieve acute, subacute and chronic pain.