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PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A meeting of the House Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was held on Tuesday, March 22, 1977 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 431 of the State Capitol. All members were present with the exception of Reps. Palmer, Colburn, Lynch and Metcalf, who were excused.

The first bill heard was SENATE BILL 399, sponsored by Senator Boylan. Al Dougherty, Montana Chiropractic Association, started out the testimony in his absence. Laureen France, also from the Montana Chiropractic Association, then spoke. She introduced Dr. Robert Norrbohm, President of that Association. He testified in support of the bill; see prepared statement. The Federal Department of Health lists chiropractic as a primary health care provider. State laws should have an updating. Montana chiropractors make over 600,000 office and house calls per year. Students in chiropractic are becoming more advanced in their education as time goes on. Dr. Sidney A. Saetre, Board of Directors of the Montana Chiropractic Association, then spoke; see prepared statement. Roland D. Pratt, representing the Montana Chiropractic Association also then spoke. This bill clarifies the definition of chiropractic. The current definition was written in 1918. Insurance rates would not become astronomical for chiropractors with passage of this bill; at present they are paying about \$400.

The opponents to SENATE BILL 399 then testified. The first to speak was Mr. Jerry Loendorf, representing the Montana Medical Association. He quoted from the definition of chiropractic. It would no longer be limited to just manipulation of the spinal column, but would pertain to the entire body. The new definition seems to allow a chiropractor to do everything but prescribe medication or do operative surgery. The chiropractors might take this definition too far. He referred extensively to a Consumers Report entitled "CHIROPRACTORS: HEALERS OR QUACKS?" Chiropractic believes that diseases are caused by nerve interference and that by adjustments diseases can be cured. Doctors are opposed to chiropractic because it is considered a science. Educational standards are less than satisfactory. These are some of the reasons for the consumer study being done. X-rays are used to diagnose a disease situation that does not exist. "Unscientific appraisal of nonexistent diseases" takes place. He suggested that the chiropractors' purpose for using X-rays was not scientifically valid. One of the recommendations from the Consumer Report is that the Consumers Union believes chiropractic is a significant hazard to patients. The public health would be better served if the government tried to limit this profession. X-rays and use of drugs should be banned from treatment. Chiropractors should be prohibited

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from treating children. The Montana Medical Association agrees with these guidelines.

Dr. John W. McMahan, also representing the Montana Medical Association, then spoke. He disagrees with the bill allowing chiropractors to take EKG's. He addressed the requirement for continuing education, stating that the fact that someone attends a course does not mean anything. He said that this bill is a very dangerous proposal. Dr. Ned Schroeder, an orthopedic surgeon from Helena, spoke. Many people don't know the difference between a chiropractor and an orthopedist. He feels the bill is dangerous because it is open-ended. It would allow chiropractors to treat any known disease there is. He doesn't feel that chiropractors have adequate scientific background to use all of the equipment the bill provides that they may use. He then displayed what he called a typical chiropractic X-ray. This large X-ray radiates several places in the body which are especially susceptible to radiation. He questioned whether this profession had truly upgraded their education. He then distributed several pamphlets found in a local chiropractor's office which claimed chiropractic could cure asthma, sinus problems and other ailments. In addition he passed out a chart also found which outlined numerous additional ailments and the locations along the spine which corresponded to them.

Gerald Neeley, Montana Medical Association then spoke. He submitted a statement made by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on "Coverage of Chiropractic Services in Governmental Programs" as of May 1976; see copy. As a non-physician, he made a few observations about the bill. Section 1 provides that any recognized methods as taught in chiropractic colleges could be used. It does not stipulate that the chiropractors involved in the use of this equipment be trained accordingly, however. Several other problems with the bill were pointed out.

Questions were then asked concerning SENATE BILL 399. Dr. Norrbohm stated that when Medicare originally included chiropractic, the American Medical Association mandated that all patients must be X-rayed. Dr. Saetre pointed out that chiropractic offices are examined yearly by the Department of Health in regards to X-ray. He also submitted that the X-ray shown by Dr. Schroeder was not exemplary of the chiropractors' work. Dr. Norrbohm spoke up for the need for supportive appliances. Also, he "certainly would not use EKG's"; that is not the intent of the bill. Rep. Harper asked Dr. Saetre whether his profession had an official position on the claims put forth in the pamphlets submitted to the committee earlier by Dr. Schroeder. He replied that he did not believe the pamphlets were current examples of what is normally found in chiropractors' offices. He pointed out also that there is currently a bill before Congress which

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would help alleviate the X-ray conflict which at present requires X-raying of all patients.

SENATE BILL 425 was then heard. Senator Boylan was also the sponsor of this bill, at the request of the Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing. Mr. Roland D. Pratt opened the testimony on the bill. Dr. W. J. Kaye testified in support of this bill; see prepared outline. This bill would prohibit professional licensing by cities. Ed Carney, Dept. of Professional & Occupational Licensing then spoke. There is a duplication in licensing. Either the state licensing is valid or it is not valid.

There were no opponents to SENATE BILL 425. The hearing was closed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Wm. "RED" Menahan
Chairman - Rep. Wm. "Red" Menahan

Debbie Gahovos
Secretary