

September 7, 2012

Received via email

Hello,

My name is Robert Meyer, and I am a chiropractor in Westminster, Colorado.

It has just come to my attention that HHS has selected Kaiser Permanente as the benchmark for "essential benefits." I agree with this selection as Kaiser has proved to be a very cost-effective healthcare plan that should serve as a good model.

It is my opinion, however, that options that allow for chiropractic care should be included, just as a number of Kaiser plans do. This is not suggesting a "Cadillac" plan that covers anything and everything, but a plan that is still affordable, and slightly more comprehensive. In the treatment of neuromusculoskeletal problems many studies have shown the efficacy of chiropractic treatment. Conservative, inexpensive chiropractic management of problems such as neck pain, headaches, low back pain, and sports injuries, often allows for a superior treatment outcome while also avoiding more invasive and expensive treatments such as prescription medications and surgery.

In the long run, inclusion of chiropractic would, undoubtedly, greatly reduce costs. It should be considered an "essential benefit," and it is my understanding that States have a great deal of flexibility in implementing these plans.

Tens of thousands of Coloradans have benefited from chiropractic care. It would be a disservice the thousands of Colorado citizens that are moved to this type of small business plan starting in 2014 did not have access to chiropractic care.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my remarks.

Cordially,

Robert H. Meyer