

# Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium Advances Consumer Choice and Access to Integrative Health Care

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AT THE REQUEST OF LEGISLATORS who support integrative health care and who need an organization that represents the consensus voice of the integrative health care communities, the Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium (IHPC) was formed in 2001.

IHPC is a broad coalition of health care professionals, patients, and organizations driving public policy to ensure all Americans access to safe, high quality integrative health care and to increase the focus of our health care system on health creation and the building blocks of health, including whole foods, clean air, and water.

In 1999, the Hon. Berkley Bedell, former Congressman from Iowa; Candace Campbell, American Association of Health Freedom; Pamela Snider, ND, Bastyr University; and Sheila Quinn, American Association of Naturopathic Medicine co-authored the “National Plan to Advance Integrated Healthcare,” working with Sens. Tom Harkin and Tom Daschle, congressional staffers, and Wayne Jonas, MD, PhD. Many national integrative health care policy leaders reviewed the document. An outgrowth of the report was recognition of the need for an organized national integrative health care voice, and the Integrated Health Care Consortium (IHCC) Steering Committee (forerunner of today’s IHPC) was born.

The IHCC, led by Campbell along with core executives Aviad Haramati, PhD, Georgetown University Medical School, Snider, and Quinn, co-hosted the seminal National Policy Dialogue to Advance Integrated Healthcare: Finding Common Ground (NPD) at Georgetown University in late 2001. The NPD reported a historic 18 points of integrative policy agreement among 60-plus diverse stakeholders in early 2002. From this common ground, months later, the IHCC moved to continue as a coalition, changed its name to the Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium, and began implementing NPD’s policy proposals with a \$30,000-plus budget for staff. Funds were raised at the end of the NPD by John Weeks (IHCC Steering Committee; Collaboration for HealthCare Renewal Foundation). Matt Russell became

IHPC’s first executive director and Campbell its chair.

Synergy and rapid influence-building among the stakeholders in leadership positions within the IHC community also influenced the formation of IHPC from IHCC in 2002. A significant influence was discussion at the Integrative Medicine Industry Leadership Summit (2000), led by John Weeks. IHPC formally joined forces with working groups of the Collaboration for Healthcare Renewal Foundation (CHRF), which was born at the Second Integrative Medicine Industry leadership Summit in Scottsdale, Arizona, in

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IHPC

- **Significant roles in five provisions in the Affordable Care Act:**

- 1) *Sec. 2706. Non-discrimination in health care*
- 2) *Sec. 4001. National prevention, health promotion, and public health council*
- 3) *Sec. 3502. Establishing community health teams to support the patient-centered medical home*
- 4) *Sec. 6301. Patient-centered outcomes research*
- 5) *Sec. 5101. The new national healthcare workforce, to include “licensed cam providers and integrative healthcare practitioners”*

- **First public policy statement defining the language of Sec. 5101**

- **Congressional briefings to educate Congress about integrative health care in these provisions**

- **Presidential appointment of Janet Kahn, PhD, then executive director of IHPC, to the White House Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health**

- **Appointment of first ND (Bruce Milliman, ND) and LMT to AMA’s CPT Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee (HCPAC)**

- **Formation of the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC)**

- **Hosted landmark integrative education and policy summits:** National Education Dialogue to Advance Integrated Healthcare: Finding Common Ground- (2001) and A Stakeholder Conference on Integrated Health Care Reform held at Georgetown University, Washington DC, Sept. 2010.

2002. IHPC became incorporated as its own organization in 2003 under the chairmanship of Sheila Quinn.

### Strategic campaign to implement Sec. 2706

IHPC takes the lead this year in advancing consumer choice and access to integrative health care through the launch of its strategic 2013 campaign on implementing Sec. 2706 on non-discrimination, a policy recommendation included in IHPC's 2002 National Policy Dialogue Report.

Sec. 2706 prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against health care providers relative to their participation and coverage in health plans, based on their state-authorized scope of practice, thereby encouraging full utilization of health care providers and reduction in costs for patient care.

Fueled by the language of the law of the land, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the vision of IHPC's Chair Len Wisneski, MD, the outstanding organizing efforts of Executive Director Alyssa Wostrel, MBA, the generosity of the chiropractic community and the unwavering support of an outstanding board of directors, a state-by-state campaign for "correct implementation" of Sec. 2706 of the ACA is underway!

The Hon. Deborah Senn, JD, (former state of Washington insurance commissioner) is representing IHPC's regulated CAM and IHC practitioner community and, by extension, patients and consumers of health care in a strategically constructed state-by-state plan of action. The educational vehicles for implementation on the state level for legislators, patients/consumers, and practitioners will consist of white papers, FAQs, webinars, tools and training, reports, status tracking, and legal opinions.

The collective voice of the scientific, research, health care, institutional and policy community represented at Academy Health's National Healthcare Policy Conference, in Washington, DC, February 3-5, 2013, spoke a language begging for inclusion of diversity in health care that will bring us all closer to a truly healthier nation—one of independence, personal responsibility, transparency, and affordability. The stakeholders are calling for those qualities that promote a culture of health, wellness, and, ultimately, well-being to be an inherent part, an essential benefit, if you will, of our mainstream health care system.

This is the goal of the Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium, a coordinated system in which health care professionals are educated about one another's work and collaborate with one another, and with their patients, to achieve optimal well-being for the patient including physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

To further its goal, IHPC will host a national and state 2706 clearinghouse and information channel along with its national and state 2706 campaign for its membership base and integrative health care community nationally. Grassroots advocacy efforts targeting both patients and practitioners are currently in play. IHPC will also engage the medical homes and coding reimbursement aspect of Sec. 2706's implementation. IHPC's base is the organizations, provider associations, and many educational institutions representing the 375,000 licensed, whole person-oriented integrative health care disciplines.

The American Academy of Pain Management is one of the 14 organizations that comprise the IHPC Partners for Health. The others are the American Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM); American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP); International Chiropractic Pediatric Association (ICPA); International Chiropractic Association (ICA); National Center for Homeopathy (NCH); American Institute for Homeopathy (AIH); National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM); American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA); Naturopathic Medical Student Association (NMSA); American Medical Student Association (AMSA); Life University; Bastyr University's Center for Health Policy and Leadership; and Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research. IHPC's Policy Advisory Council members include the Chandra Foundation and Double Helix Water.

The Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium welcomes people who have talents, skills, and resources to share to ensure that the 2013 campaign to implement non-discrimination in our health care system is effective and that it *spreads like wildfire!*

Your support is a powerful voice to the legislators, the insurance companies, and our patients, friends, and families who suffer needlessly due to lack of choice and access to safe, effective, and cost-saving integrative health care.

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