

Fiscal Year 2022 Testimony of behalf of the
Integrative Health Policy Consortium
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
In support of: Department of Health and Human Services
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Integrative Health Policy Consortium

Thank you, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt, for this opportunity to testify in support of programs at the Department of Health and Human Services under your Subcommittee's jurisdiction that are important to the members of the Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC) (www.ihpc.org). Specifically, IHPC is writing to express its support for funding the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) program within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). In addition, our testimony respectfully asks the Subcommittee to support the inclusion of report language urging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement recommendations issued by the HHS Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force.

The **Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC)** IHPC is a broad-based coalition of organizations whose mission is to eliminate barriers to health. IHPC includes 26 organizations representing more than 650,000 state licensed, certified and/or nationally certified healthcare professionals, including medical doctors, registered nurses, doctors of chiropractic, naturopathic doctors, licensed acupuncturists, licensed massage therapists, and academic, research, clinical, and public education organizations. **IHPC** has championed the *Congressional Integrative Health & Wellness Caucus and functions to support* the federal agencies overseeing America's health and health research needs. IHPC envisions a world with no barriers to health and is focused on promoting a healthier world that incentivizes health creation for all individuals, communities, and the planet.

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

IHPC appreciates the strong support that the Chair and Ranking Member have given the NIH. IHPC shares your enthusiasm for the agency's research and research training mission and encourages the subcommittee to continue prioritizing NIH funding. In addition, we urge the Subcommittee to provide the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) with similar, commensurate increases. With this additional support, NCCIH could support its ongoing mission as well as embark fully on a new, promising research initiative, the Whole Health Perspective. This initiative would promote research looking at the interactions between systems in the body, such as connections between the brain and the heart, that predispose people to disease and expand our understanding of integrative health and pathways to improving health and preventing disease.

IHPC specially wants to draw attention to the importance of including all the regulated integrative health systems and professions in whole person research. One of the major lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of optimal health is the need for each of the major

systems as well as integrative protocols to be studied in real world environments to determine the whole person effect of regular care through specific approaches such as acupuncture, naturopathic medicine, chiropractic, homeopathy, holistic nursing, massage therapy, lifestyle and functional medicine approaches, direct entry midwifery, and traditional healing approaches from Native American and indigenous communities.

IHPC joins other organizations in asking the Subcommittee to provide **NIH with \$46.1 billion in FY 2022**. This request, which is a \$3.177 billion (7.4%) increase over the comparable FY 2021 funding level for the NIH, would allow for the agency's base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth of 5%. Further, such an increase would expand NIH's capacity to support promising science across all disciplines, particularly including the new Whole Health initiative underway at NCCIH. IHPC asks the subcommittee to provide NCCIH with at least a similar 7.4% funding increase in FY 2022.

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are community-based health care providers that receive funds from the HRSA Health Center Program to provide primary care services in underserved areas. In recent years, especially with the onset of the nation's opioid crisis, FQHCs have emerged as a platform for Integrative Whole Health innovation and for the delivery of non-pharmacologic pain management services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, select FQHCs have expanded their services to deliver pain management services to an increased number of uninsured and underinsured individuals. To advance and expand the FQHC mission, IHPC endorses the recommendation issued by the National Association of Community Health Centers to **provide community health centers with \$2.2 billion in discretionary funding** in FY 2022. Further, we respectfully request the Subcommittee to request a report from HRSA in FY 2022 regarding the inclusion of regulated complementary and integrative health professionals and services system wide, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for services within the FQHC system and barriers to access and reimbursement for non-pharmacologic pain management services; and possible solutions to the elimination of noted barriers.

HHS Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force

IHPC respectfully asks that the Subcommittee support the inclusion of proposed report language, urging HHS to facilitate adoption of recommendations from The Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force and launch a public awareness campaign to educate Americans about the differences between acute and chronic pain and the evidence-based non-opioid (non-pharmacologic) treatment options that are available. In 2019, this congressionally established task force issued a ground-breaking report regarding best practices for managing acute and chronic pain. Of note, the report underscores the philosophical and cultural shift to focus on addressing chronic and acute pain by using complementary and integrative health including non-pharmacologic approaches that have been proven effective and are widely supported by practitioners working in all healthcare settings. These treatment options include acupuncture, massage therapy, physical and occupational therapies, chiropractic, cognitive behavioral therapy, manipulative therapy, yoga, tai chi, and meditation. If implemented, these recommendations will have profound public health and positive national economic impact on a

significant percent of the U.S. population. The IHPC stands ready to assist the agency and the Congress in advancing this important public awareness.

Thank you for considering our views. The IHPC looks forward to working with you to enact the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill and to help ensure our priorities are addressed in the final version of this important funding legislation.

Integrative Health Policy Consortium Partners for Health

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| <p>American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC) https://www.ahncc.org/</p> | <p>Life University The Octagon http://www.octagon.life.edu/</p> | <p>American Nutrition Association Board of Certification Nutrition of Specialists (BCNS) https://theana.org/certify</p> |
| <p>International Chiropractors Association (ICA) https://www.chiropractic.org/</p> | <p>Alliance for Massage Therapy Education (AFMTE) https://www.afmte.org/</p> | <p>American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA) https://www.ahna.org/</p> |
| <p>Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCU) https://www.scuhs.edu/</p> | <p>Integrative Medicine for the Underserved (IM4US) https://im4us.org/</p> | <p>American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) https://naturopathic.org/</p> |
| <p>Palmer College of Chiropractic https://www.palmer.edu/</p> | <p>Naturopathic Medicine Student Association (NMSA) https://naturopathicstudent.org/</p> | <p>National Center for Homeopathy (NCH) https://www.homeopathycenter.org/</p> |
| <p>Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) https://www.homeopathicdirectory.com/</p> | <p>American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA) https://medicalacupuncture.org/</p> | <p>Northwestern Health Sciences University, Center for Healthcare Innovation and Policy https://www.nwhealth.edu/research/policy-in-action/</p> |
| <p>Institute for Natural Medicine (INM) https://naturemed.org/</p> | <p>Upledger Institute https://www.upledger.com/</p> | <p>National Foundation for Integrative Medicine (NFIM) https://nfim.org/</p> |
| <p>American Society of Acupuncturists https://www.asacu.org/</p> | <p>Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM) https://aihm.org/</p> | <p>American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) https://www.amtamassage.org/</p> |
| <p>Midwives of Alliance of North America (MANA) https://mana.org/</p> | <p>National Association of Certified Professional Midwives https://nacpm.org/</p> | |