

HB 209 -- CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

SPONSOR: Wiemann

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill permits the MO HealthNet division within the Department of Social Services to make MO HealthNet payments to chiropractic physicians practicing within their scope of practice for conditions currently reimbursed under the MO HealthNet program.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow medicaid patients to have more choices in getting health care and at cheaper prices. It is generally about 40% cheaper to go to a chiropractor on the first visit.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wiemann; Dr. Ronald J. Forabaugh; Dr. John R McGowan, Missouri State Chiropractic Association; Quinn James D.C., Missouri State Chiropractors Association; and Ross Mattox.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the Medicaid system is already strained and providing primary care should be the number one goal. Many times x-rays are required when you go to a chiropractor and that will cause the prices to increase.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Academy Of Family Physicians and Kenny Jackson, Missouri State Medical Association.