

SUBJECT: State contracts for chiropractic education

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Rangel, Solis, Bailey, Cuellar, Dunnam, Kamel, Rabuck,
E. Reyna

0 nays

1 absent — Rodriguez

WITNESSES: For — Carl Parker, Parker College of Chiropractic

Against — None

BACKGROUND : Texas has two institutions of chiropractic education: Texas Chiropractic College and Parker College of Chiropractic. Current law provides that the state may contract with a private chiropractic college for the education of chiropractic students unless a public institution of chiropractic education is established.

DIGEST: HB 854 would delete the provision prohibiting the state from contracting with a private institution for the education of chiropractic medical professionals if it establishes a public chiropractic institution.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally approved by a two-thirds record vote of the membership in each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 854 would prevent the limited options now available to Texas residents interested in pursuing chiropractic education from being curtailed even further. Only two chiropractic institutions now exist in the state, both private. One, however, may be incorporated into the state university system. The House on April 17 passed HB 621, by Jackson, et al., which would establish Texas Chiropractic College as a public institution of higher education. An unintended consequence of unintended effect of HB 621 would be to prevent Parker College of Chiropractic from receiving state funding, currently included in the Title 11 “wish list” of HB 1, the general

appropriations bill. HB 834 would avoid this problem, allowing access to chiropractic education to any students on whose behalf the state contracts.

This bill would allow Texas to assume leadership in a changing health care market that emphasizes alternative health care, including chiropractic medicine. As demand for chiropractic professionals and services increases, the state would be best served by retaining all its options for the funding of chiropractic medicine in the state. HB 854 would simply ensure that Texas' future funding of chiropractic medicine is not unnecessarily curtailed.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No compelling need has been demonstrated for the state to expand its current involvement in the training of chiropractors. Especially at a time when the numerous higher education institutions to which the state has already committed funding are clamoring for more state dollars, the state should not enter into new financial commitment of this kind.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 338 by West, passed the Senate on April 9 and has been referred to the House Higher Education Committee.