



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, our nation spends nearly \$50 billion per year on health care and expenses related to back pain; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has one of the highest rates of surgical procedures on the spine, for Medicare and non-Medicare patients, in comparison to other states; and

WHEREAS, doctors of chiropractic (DCs) are recognized worldwide for their health-enhancing and injury prevention services, which help people to heal naturally, often without the need for drugs and surgery, and to resume their regular daily activities sooner; and

WHEREAS, Idaho doctors of chiropractic are physician-level providers who focus on a holistic and conservative approach to health care and have particular expertise in the prevention, care and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal injuries and conditions; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has 725 licensed doctors of chiropractic who are entry-point healthcare providers specializing in spinal manipulation, health promotion, nutrition and wellness; and

WHEREAS, a conservative approach to pain management makes sense since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified the overuse and abuse of prescription pain medications in the United States as "epidemic" and Medicare has questioned the medical necessity of many spinal fusion surgeries until after patients fully exhaust more conservative pain management options; and

WHEREAS, a seven-year prospective follow-up study analyzing 70,274 member-months of patients managed by DCs resulted in an 85-percent reduction in drug costs, 62-percent reduction in MRIs and surgeries, 60.2-percent reduction in in-hospital admissions, and a 59-percent reduction in hospital days; and

WHEREAS, DCs are educated in nationally accredited, four-year doctoral graduate school programs through a curriculum that includes a minimum of 4,200 hours of classroom, laboratory and clinical internship, with the average DC program equivalent in classroom hours to allopathic and osteopathic medical schools; and

WHEREAS, Idaho DCs, through their regular interactions with patients and their communities, and in collaboration with other healthcare providers, have the opportunity to teach people about the importance of a conservative-care-first approach to health, thereby diminishing the need for riskier and more expensive and invasive treatments; and

WHEREAS, the services of Idaho doctors of chiropractic result in improved health, patient satisfaction, safety and a conservative care option that significantly reduces costs to the patient, the state and the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim October 2015 to be

**IDAHO CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
MONTH**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred fortieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-sixth.

C.L. BUTCH OTTER
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE