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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

June 8, 2009

HELP YOUR CONSTITUENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN
Cosponsor the Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act of 2009, H.R. 646

Dear Colleague:

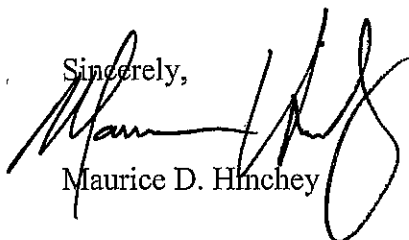
We all represent constituents suffering from chronic pain, migraines, osteoarthritis, addiction, carpal tunnel syndrome, and fibromyalgia, or recovering from the effects of a stroke. Some of us may suffer from these conditions ourselves, or have friends and family members who do. Did you know that the National Institutes of Health has found acupuncture to be an effective treatment for all of these conditions?

New research being conducted both publicly and privately has demonstrated the effectiveness of acupuncture in treating a growing number of health problems. Recent studies have been published affirming acupuncture's benefits for the treatment of tension headaches, overactive bladder disorders, and fertility.

The Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act, H.R. 646 (H.R. 1479 in the 110th Congress) would provide access to acupuncture for your constituents covered by Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. These 52 million Americans are effectively denied acupuncture treatment because their plans do not cover acupuncture now. Unlike much more expensive treatments for serious diseases and chronic conditions, acupuncture is minimally invasive, doesn't require a recovery period and doesn't cause any side effects. Compared to the pharmaceuticals that are often prescribed for these conditions, acupuncture is a bargain.

Please join me in bringing the safe, proven benefits of acupuncture to our constituents in the Medicare and FEHB plans by cosponsoring the Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act. For more information or to cosponsor, please contact Erika Conway at erika.conway@mail.house.gov or 5-6335.

Sincerely,



Maurice D. Hinchey

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