Message from TBCE Board President, August 2017

As we transition away from facility registration, it is imperative for D.C.’s employed by facility owners to fully understand their responsibilities as a licensee. Prior to the recent passage of SB 304, there was some uncertainty as to the shared responsibilities between a licensed D.C. and a registered facility owner regarding a variety of matters including the maintenance of patient records, billing and the sanitary conditions of the facility where patients are served. As of September 1, 2017, the TBCE must hold each licensed D.C. responsible for the entire package of delivery of healthcare services. If a complaint is filed against a licensee by a patient, payer, or other concerned party, the Board will investigate the incident and hold the licensed D.C. wholly responsible for any acts of commission or omission resulting in a rule violation. In taking a proactive approach to prevent violations wherever possible, and to minimize enforcement proceedings, the Board has begun an awareness campaign through email advisories and other outreach. Look for the TBCE booth at upcoming major chiropractic educational seminars and speak to one of our representatives for clarification on any issue that concerns your license. Our recent June 2017 stakeholder meeting included leaders of the profession and resulted in a list of tips and recommendations for licensees, especially those currently employed in a facility or seeking employment. This list of tips (TBCE TEN) was developed in the interest of prevention on behalf of the people of Texas as well as Doctors of Chiropractic who wish to abide by the rules and maintain high standards. Thank you for taking responsibility to ensure honest, ethical and professional healthcare delivery to your patients.

We are in the process of meeting with providers and educators from both the chiropractic and acupuncture professions to determine contemporary standards and parameters in the practice of acupuncture. To this end, we have begun a series of informal conferences on the topic with a goal to ensure that our licensees serve the public safely, effectively and with clear representation of the services they provide. As with all professions, Doctors of Chiropractic in Texas face public demand for higher standards. I am certain that our profession is willing to meet and exceed these advancing standards.

Finally, I want to speak to the D.C.’s who serve as Designated Doctors for the TDI Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC). You have qualified through DWC’s advanced training and testing to demonstrate your knowledge of the rules and proficiency in evaluating injured workers. Your service as a standardized, independent and unbiased evaluator is integral to our system of care for injured workers and insurance for employers. Your willingness to travel to the underserved and less populated counties is especially beneficial to the system. I have taught many of you along with our medical counterparts through DWC’s required certification training courses and skills-enhancement workshops. I appreciate your efforts to meet strict guidelines under the authority of DWC and I commend you for your service. You should note that the DWC is now accepting comments on an informal working draft of rules for the Designated Doctor program. The comment period for the draft will close on September 1, 2017.

Mark R. Bronson, D.C., F.A.C.O.