

# Is There an Alliance Between the FCLB & the NBCE?

## Watch Out! This could be the first step to "testing" for relicensure

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I thought licensing boards were a "politically appointed" group of individuals, (not necessarily even chiropractors) who held these positions to "police" professional members and thus protect the public. To ensure that we, as licensed professionals "above all else, do no harm!"

At what point did these individuals become "experts" in the educational process?

For many years there have been rumblings that the FCLB as a representative body of state chiropractic boards, whose membership consists of these **political** appointees, were mulling over the idea of "unionizing" in the area of postgraduate education.

In the past, the FCLB has denied these rumors. However, several attendees at a state leadership meeting in recent months in New Mexico report that this political body is indeed engaged in serious discussions regarding the accreditation of a program that would evaluate **all hours of continuing education** that would be deemed "acceptable" to qualify for your re-licensure credits. They have even gone so far as to categorize them into the following four groups:

1. Contains primary curricular data with testing on completion.
2. Contains primary curricular information w/out tests.
3. Contains "acceptable" information such as philosophy/practice management.
4. Is an "unacceptable" program according to the "evaluators".

### Problems with current process

What reasons do these individuals give for FCLB to be given the right to certify and validate postgraduate courses and take this process away from our individual chiropractic colleges?

1. "Our colleges are not doing an adequate job."
2. "It will allow for ease of transfer of credits from state to state."
3. "It will make it easier for the colleges to obtain approval for their programs as they will only have to apply to one organization for approval of all post graduate credits."

The first reason is an obvious case of transference for any one who is awake/aware. Currently, the continuing education departments of our colleges have to apply for approval to **each state board** on an individual basis. Therefore, if in fact some programs that are presently being approved are "substandard", a more correct statement is: "some members of our state boards (or members of this organization) are not doing an adequate job"! So what magic is going to really change here?

As for the second reason, there are presently no two state associations that

concur with the number of hours and/or the method by which one can procure continuing education credits. How gullible does one have to be to imagine that every state board is going to "get in line" with the demands of an outside agency that has no authority other than that which they believe they have assumed?

Let's imagine for a moment that the above four categories proposed for this program got universal acceptance by the FCLB. Will there also be universal acceptance of how many credits of each category (1, 2 and 3) will be allowable in **every** state of the United States? I doubt it! So what has really changed? Is it just another "power play"? Or is this really part of bigger plan?

On the surface, reason three probably has enormous appeal to the con-

tinuing education departments of our colleges. The present process of applying for approval from each state board is an arduous and frustrating task. The idea that one application would be acceptable throughout the nation is indeed unique and could certainly assist in preparation of scheduled events. The truth is that many states are attempting to make the acquisition of CE credits difficult to get at any location other than by their own state programs, not for any ideals of educational excellence but because it is a major source of revenue.

It doesn't take much imagination to quickly see the fallacy of such a pipe dream.

Who on the FCLB would be responsible for assessing each program, monitoring its content and testing of the at-

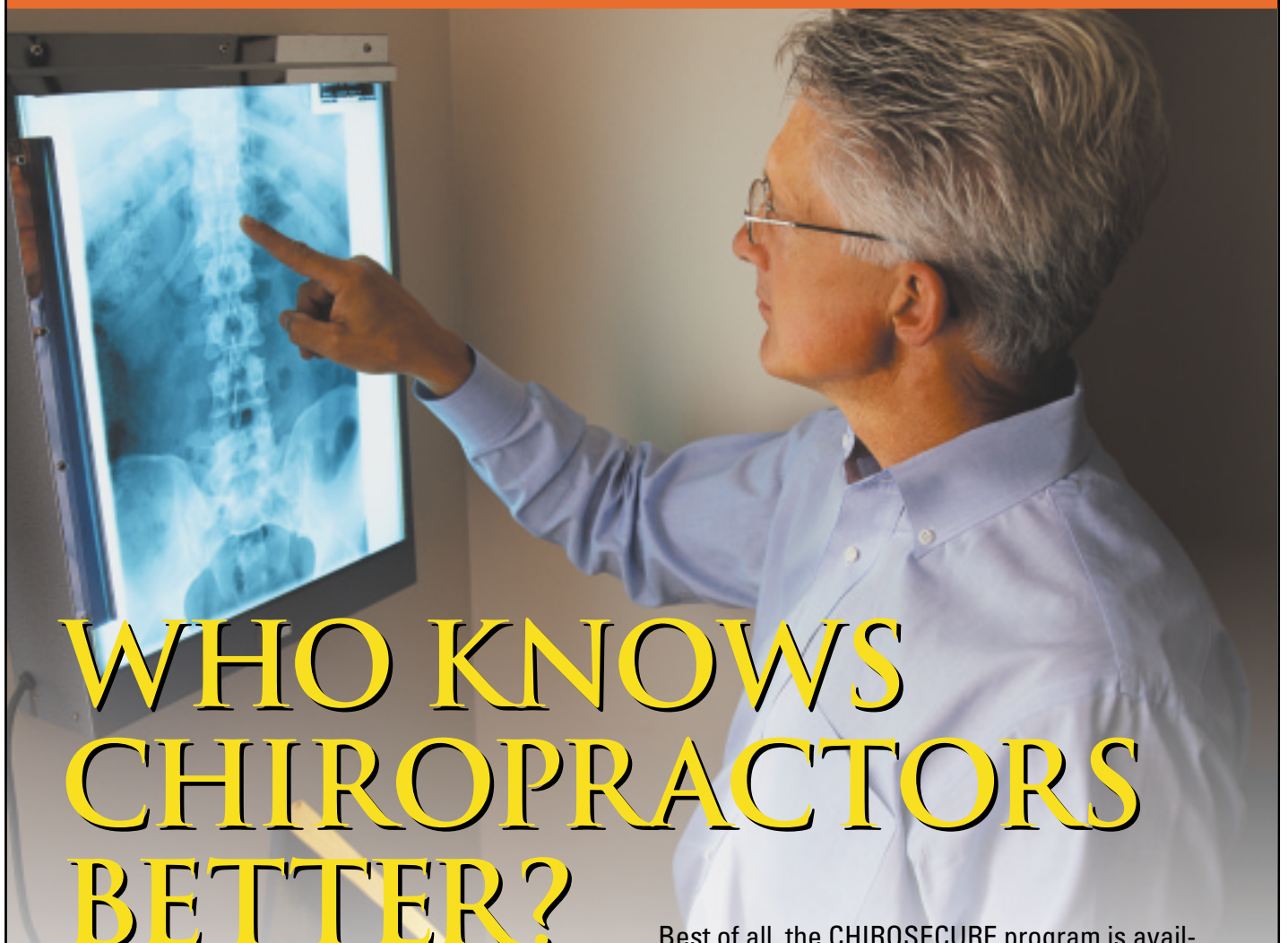
tendees? Is this individual/committee going to be well versed in educational standards? Is a passing grade required for those hours in category one to be counted? Or will they automatically revert to category two? Would we need to obtain hours in each category? Are the hours in category one more valuable than category two and three? How will they be assessed by each individual state? Will every state require the same number of continuing education hours? Which category do they fall in to? There are more questions than answers.

### Wake up and smell the roses!

To me this seems to be a first step towards testing for re-licensure! Not everyone seems to have received it, but not too long ago, a "survey" was dis-

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