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Essilor of America Named Winner of Texas Star Benefits Award

Dallas – December 13, 2017 – [Essilor of America](#) was honored with the first **Texas Star Benefits Award** by the non-profit Texas Business Group on Health at the TBGH-DFWBGH Annual Benefits Forum on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Essilor of America, a French-owned company with U.S. headquarters in Dallas, is the largest manufacturer of optical lenses.

The **Texas Star Benefits Award** recognizes and honors an outstanding Texas employer for its commitment to a healthy, engaged and productive workforce through innovative benefits and wellness programs that advance employee health, informed healthcare decision-making and overall healthcare value. The Award was sponsored by DPC Healthcare and Genentech.

Essilor was selected from a group of six Texas employers who were nominated for this prestigious award. The five other nominees were Atmos Energy, BHP Billiton Petroleum, City of Fort Worth, Phillips 66 and Southwest Airlines.

Essilor's award-winning health improvement program focuses on engaging and empowering employees to take an active and informed role in managing their overall health. The multi-faceted program includes a weight management program, annual preventive health visits, musculoskeletal pain management treatment, onsite biometric screenings, and a Personal Health Assistant (PHA) service that focuses on employees who are high risk and not engaging in the healthcare system.

"We started the PHA program in early 2017 and rolled it out as a pilot program for employees and their spouses who were most likely to benefit from a PHA," said Ryan Murry, Director of Benefits, Essilor of America. "The personalized one-on-one PHA program facilitates education about and engagement in other programs that Essilor offers and that were implemented in 2016 or 2017 such as Naturally Slim, MyEvive, Catapult, Airrosti and RN Cancer Guides."

Because of these clinically proven programs and better engaged members, Essilor has experienced a negative 7.6% trend for medical costs and negative 3.6% trend for prescription drugs in 2017. When this is contrasted with the market forecast of 7 to 10% year over year medical cost increases, this really is a phenomenal result.

“All six employers nominated deserve accolades for their innovative approaches to improving employee health and well-being,” said Marianne Fazen, TBGH president and CEO. “It was difficult to choose one over the others for this special recognition. We’re very proud of these pace-setting TBGH members who are leading by example.”

The hand-blown, multi-colored glass award in the shape of the state of Texas was presented to Ryan Murry and members of Essilor’s benefits team before a crowd of 480 business executives attending the Forum.

The Award judges included TBGH Chairman Julie Tatum, Senior Benefits Manager, Whataburger; Andrea Cockrell, Administrative Services Manager, City of Plano; David Whitt, Employee Wellness Manager, City of San Antonio; Chris Skisak, Executive Director, Houston Business Coalition on Health; and Marianne Fazen, TBGH President and CEO.

Nominees’ programs were judged on the following criteria

- Creative use of technology to facilitate informed, value-driven healthcare decisions;
- Inventive employee engagement solutions that promote healthy lifestyles and positive attitudes
- Successful collaborations with other stakeholders to improve healthcare quality, efficiency, and accountability
- Measurable results in terms of cost savings, improvements in employee biometric health markers, employee engagement via program participation.

About Texas Business Group on Health

Texas Business Group on Health (TBGH), founded in 1985, is a non-profit statewide business association dedicated to promoting healthcare innovation, accountability, and value in support of a healthy, productive workforce. Members include nearly 200 Texas employers and their regional employer coalitions, including Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health, Houston Business Coalition on Health, and San Antonio Business Group on Health. TBGH serves as a valuable resource for Texas employers in health benefits management and healthcare purchasing issues, and advocates employer healthcare interests in state legislation and policy development. For additional information, visit www.tbgh.org.

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