



The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) is a nonprofit association founded in July 2018 to address legislative initiatives that affect professional certification programs and those who hold private certification credentials. The PCC currently has **114 organizational members**, including non-governmental professional certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC’s members reflect a full spectrum of professions, including health care professionals, professional and civil engineers, human resources managers, financial professionals, and information technology professionals, among many others. The PCC advances the best interests of those who use or rely on professional certification—such as employers, reimbursers, and the general public—as well as of individual professionals themselves who achieve professional certification status. Our founding organizations are the American Society of Association Executives (the leading organization for association management) and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (the leading developer of accreditation standards for professional certification programs). The PCC thanks its members for their valued participation in the coalition and their ongoing advocacy on behalf of the certification community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

ADVOCACY



Worked with **Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)** and **Rob Wittman (R-VA)** to introduce H.R. 5339, the **Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act**, which the PCC helped draft and which would allow tax-favored 529 accounts to pay for the cost of obtaining and maintaining a certification, including exam fees and other qualified expenses.

Worked to persuade staff for **Sen. Amy Klobuchar’s (D-MN)** staff to commit to introducing a **Senate companion bill to H.R. 5339**, that is more broadly applicable to certification programs than her bill, S. 379, which was the original impetus for the PCC’s efforts on this issue.

Sent more than **20 letters to state legislators** around the country explaining the PCC’s concerns about bills affecting the professional certification community and proposing specific amendments to bills.

Engaged with the offices of **Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)** and **Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)**, as well as the National Employment Law Project, to advocate for amendments to the **Fair Chance Licensing Act** to make clear that the Act does not permit private causes of action against professional certification organizations and does not restrict private certification organizations in establishing and enforcing eligibility standards and codes of conduct.

Successfully lobbied to include a safe-harbor provision in **Missouri HB 2046**, a comprehensive professional licensing/registration bill, to clarify that Missouri law does not intend to remove certification requirements from professional practice acts that require licensed professionals to earn and maintain current certifications issued by private certification bodies.

Proposed favorably received amendments to the sponsors of the **Skills Renewal Act** to expand the reach of the bill’s \$4,000 skills training tax credit for Americans experiencing pandemic-related job instability. The amendment would apply the tax credit to expenses related to reputable certifications and credentials and to any exams and assessments required to obtain a certification or credential.

Joined with ASAE and ICE in commissioning amicus brief in appeals court consideration of **Kenney v. American Board of Internal Medicine** district court antitrust decision upholding right of private certification organizations to establish and alter certification requirements.

Successfully advocated for **Missouri Department of Professional Registration** to provide an informal determination concluding that individuals who obtain a credential describing themselves as a “registered” professional in their field can do so without fear of legal liability under a facially contrary Missouri statute.

Mobilized targeted participation from PCC members to send letters to legislators in states considering high priority legislation.

Successfully advocated for **amendments to PA SB 637**, which would establish an individualized assessment process for a licensure board or commission to determine if an applicant’s criminal history is disqualifying; in its current form, the PCC regards this bill as a model of a balanced ex-offender reentry bill that does not threaten either regulated or wholly voluntary private certification programs.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY MONITORING



Developed **in-depth analyses** of high priority bills for members.

Monitored **certification-related legislation** across the country.

Drafted analyses of and tracked over **85 bills** in more than **30 states**; provided regularly updated watchlist of relevant legislation to members.

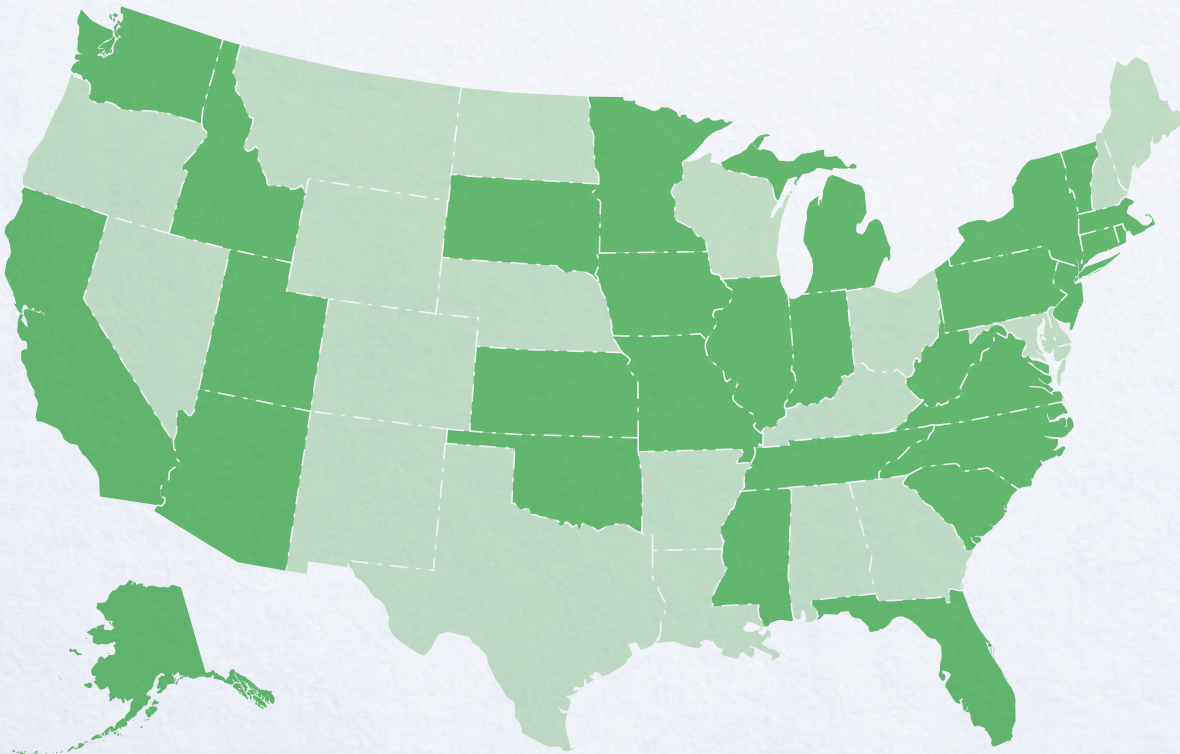
Provided **regular written updates and alerts** to members on status of legislation, developments related to our advocacy efforts, and actions for members to take.

Held **monthly member strategy calls** (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and suspension of state legislative sessions) to provide updates and gather feedback from members on strategy and priorities.

Hosted a half-day **in-person member meeting** attended by over 50 members to describe the PCC's strategy, garner input from members, and promote networking among members.

Developed and maintain website, with public-facing information and **extensive members-only content**.

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the PCC analyzed and tracked more than 85 bills that were introduced in 30 states.



States that introduced bills on the PCC's watchlist. States with no watchlist bills in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.



STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH/THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Met with representatives from the **Brookings Institution, National Employment Law Project**, and other state-based advocacy groups, nonpartisan organizations, and think tanks to educate them on the PCC's objectives and concerns.

Published a **white paper** outlining key principles for legislation relating to consideration of criminal conviction history that articulates the basis for the certification community's position that certification organizations should be self-regulating on this issue and outlines recommendations regarding how certification organizations can be part of the solution with respect to reducing barriers for ex-offenders to re-enter the job market without compromising public health, safety, or welfare.

Continued communications with **American Legislative Exchange Council, Institute for Justice**, and other key stakeholders and interest groups; suggested amendments to IJ's and the **National Employment Law Project's** draft model legislation for the 2020 legislative session.

Coordinated with PCC members who attended or sponsored the **National Conference of State Legislature's** annual meeting to speak to state legislators and regulators about the PCC's objectives.

Sponsored the **Women in Government** legislative summit and presented to a bipartisan group of women state legislators about the PCC's objectives and positions on current legislation.

Presented at the **Citizen Advocacy Center** Annual Meeting on PCC principles and work.

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR PROSPECTUS

Engage in **direct lobbying efforts at the state and federal levels** to ensure continued protection of private certification.

Further **member strategy meetings and written updates** to members on relevant developments.

Continue to **cultivate relationships with key interest groups and think tanks** engaged in occupational licensing reform and certification issues and develop new stakeholder relationships.

Continue to **monitor and analyze** occupational licensing reform bills and relevant media coverage.

Continue advocacy in favor of a version of the **Skills Renewal Act** that reflects PCC-proposed amendments to provide a tax credit for certification exams and preparation to those whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic.

Continue to engage in a grassroots and grassstops campaign to build significant bipartisan support for the **Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act** to provide access to tax-favored savings for expenses for certification exams and preparation.

Continue conversations with key lawmakers and stakeholders regarding the proper contours of criminal history-related legislation, including the federal **Fair Chance Licensing Act**.

Draft member primer on the policy issues relating to **California A.B. 5**, which restricts the ability of professionals to work as independent contractors.

THE PCC LEADERSHIP

Visit the PCC website to learn more about the PCC, view the current member list, read our White Paper, or submit an application to join the Coalition: www.profcertcoalition.org.

Contact us:
info@profcertcoalition.org

