



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
United States Representative  
1431 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
United States Representative  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: PCC Support for Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act**

Dear Congresswoman Spanberger and Congressman Upton:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes to express our strong support for the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act and to thank you for your introduction of this important legislation. This bill will provide Americans a valuable incentive to save money that can be used to pursue training and professional advancement opportunities that will help more people enter and thrive in the workforce.

The PCC is a nonprofit association founded in 2018 to address legislative initiatives that affect professional certification programs and those holding private certification credentials. The PCC currently has approximately 100 organizational members, including non-governmental professional certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC's members collectively represent or certify millions of professionals across the country and reflect a wide spectrum of professions, including engineering, healthcare, financial services, and IT services, among many other high-demand occupations. The certifications the PCC's members provide also encompass a range of credential and skill levels and include certifications available to workers who do not have college degrees.

Certifications and other postsecondary credentials provide pathways to opportunity and to career growth across fields, from entry level restaurant service jobs (e.g., certifying safe food handling knowledge) to mid-career certifications that allow individuals to advance in fields such as human resources and information technology, to certifications that reflect attainment of highly specialized knowledge, such as for professional engineers and chartered financial analysts. The recognition conferred by a professional certification is widely respected in substantial part because it is granted independently and reflects attainment of knowledge and skill standards developed by subject matter experts in the field. In short, increased access to these post-secondary credentials can benefit nearly all Americans – including individuals who have been out of the workforce for an extended period and are seeking training and credentials to reenter the workforce.



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The Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit beneficiaries to use funds in 529 plans for expenses associated with obtaining and maintaining postsecondary credentials, including costs related to taking examinations and certification maintenance, such as practice exams, test preparation materials, exam fees, continuing education fees, and renewal dues. By enabling individuals to use 529 funds to cover certification-related education and examinations, the legislation would greatly expand the reach of 529 benefits to cover a much broader and more diverse group of individuals seeking to enter the workforce or advance in their occupations, including the 50 percent of Americans whose educational attainment levels never included college, according to Census data.

The PCC views the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act as an important measure to ease the financial burden on individuals seeking to apply for or maintain certification, as well as those who are seeking opportunities for career growth by obtaining a credential allowing them to switch careers, either in addition to or as an alternative to a traditional four-year college degree.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this important issue for our country's families, workers, and employers. We look forward to working with you to achieving enactment of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kate Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kate Cunningham  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy  
ASAE: The Center for Association Leadership  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Professional  
Certification Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Roosendaal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Roosendaal  
Executive Director  
Institute for Credentialing  
Excellence  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Professional  
Certification Coalition

## Current List of PCC Members

ABRET Neurodiagnostic  
Credentialing & Accreditation  
(ABRET)

ABSA International: the  
Association for Biosafety and  
Biosecurity (ABSA)

Academy of Nutrition and  
Dietetics (AND)

Academy for Certification of  
Vision Rehabilitation &  
Education Professionals  
(ACVREP)

Alliance of Hazardous Materials  
Professionals

American Association of Post-  
Acute Care Nurses (AAPACN)

American Association of  
Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)

American Association of  
Neuromuscular &  
Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
(AANEM)

American Association of  
Professional Landmen

American Board for  
Certification in Orthotics,  
Prosthetics and Pedorthics  
(ABCOP)

American Board of Certification  
for Gastroenterology Nurses  
(ABCGN)

American Board of  
Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)

American Board of Post-Acute  
and Long-Term Care Medicine  
(ABPLM)

American Board of Foot and  
Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)

American Board of Wound  
Management (ABWM)

American Industrial Hygiene  
Association (AIHA)

American Medical Certification  
Association (AMCA)

American Nurses Credentialing  
Center (ANCC)

American Payroll Association  
(APA)

American Road &  
Transportation Builders  
Association Foundation  
(ARTBA)

American Society of  
Association Executives (ASAE)

American Society of Civil  
Engineers (ASCE)

American Speech-Language-  
Hearing Association (ASHA)

American Traffic Safety  
Services Association (ATSSA)

American Translators  
Association (ATA)

American Veterinary Medical  
Association (AVMA)

APICS (formerly the American  
Production and Inventory  
Control Society)

Association for Financial  
Counseling & Planning  
Education (AFCPE)

Association for Financial  
Professionals (AFP)

Association of Surgical  
Technologists (AST)

Behavior Analyst Certification  
Board (BACB)

Building Industry Consulting  
Service International (BICSI)

Board of  
Certification/Accreditation  
(BOC)

Board of Certified Safety  
Professionals (BCSP)

Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(BPS)

Building Commissioning  
Certification Board (BCCB)

CCIM Institute (issues the  
Certified Commercial  
Investment Member  
designation)

CFA Institute

Certification Board for Music  
Therapists (CBMT)

Certification Board of Infection  
Control and Epidemiology  
(CBIC)

Certification Council for  
Professional Dog Trainers

Certified Financial Planner  
Board of Standards (CFP)

Certified Fund Raising  
Executive International (CFRE)

Commercial Real Estate  
Certification Institute

Commission for Case Manager  
Certification (CCMC)

Commission on Nurse  
Certification (CNC)

CompTIA

Community Association  
Institute (CAI)

Construction Management  
Association of America  
(CMAA)

Council of Engineering and  
Scientific Specialty Boards  
(CESB)

Dental Assisting National Board  
(DANB)

Design-Build Institute of  
America (DBIA)

Diving Equipment and  
Marketing Association (DEMA)

Entertainment Services and  
Technology Association (ESTA)

ETA International (ETA)

Events Industry Council (EIC)

Financial Planning Association (FPA)

Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Education Foundation

Heuristic Solutions

Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC)

Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)

Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA)

Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)

Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)

Inteleos (includes the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement (APCA))

Irrigation Association

International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSCMM)

International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)

International Coach Federation (ICF)

International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE)

International Society of Automation (ISA)

Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)

International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC<sup>2</sup>)

IT Certification Council (ITCC)

Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)

Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)

National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA)

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)

National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA)

National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)

National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)

National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)

National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)

National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE)

National Certification Corporation (NCC)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

National Restaurant Association

National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

PSI Services

Pearson Vue

QualityPro

School Nutrition Association (SNA)

SeaCrest Consulting

Security Industry Association

Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)

Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB)

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)