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.
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,

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

Denise Roosendaal
Executive Director
Institute for Credentialing Excellence
Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Professional Certification Coalition
## Current List of PCC Members

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABRET Neurodiagnostic Credentialing &amp; Accreditation (ABRET)</td>
<td>American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)</td>
<td>CCIM Institute (issues the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation)</td>
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<td>ABSA International: the Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity (ABSA)</td>
<td>American Payroll Association (APA)</td>
<td>CFA Institute</td>
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<td>Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)</td>
<td>American Road &amp; Transportation Builders Association Foundation (ARTBA)</td>
<td>Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT)</td>
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<td>Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation &amp; Education Professionals (ACVREP)</td>
<td>American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)</td>
<td>Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC)</td>
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<td>Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals</td>
<td>American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)</td>
<td>Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers</td>
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<td>American Association of Post-Acute Care Nurses (AAPACN)</td>
<td>American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)</td>
<td>Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)</td>
<td>American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)</td>
<td>Certified Fund Raising Executive International (CFRE)</td>
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<td>American Association of Neuromuscular &amp; Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM)</td>
<td>American Translators Association (ATA)</td>
<td>Commercial Real Estate Certification Institute</td>
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<td>American Association of Professional Landmen</td>
<td>American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)</td>
<td>Commission for Case Manager Certification (CCMC)</td>
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<td>American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABCOP)</td>
<td>APICS (formerly the American Production and Inventory Control Society)</td>
<td>Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC)</td>
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<td>American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCIGN)</td>
<td>Association for Financial Counseling &amp; Planning Education (AFCPE)</td>
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<td>American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)</td>
<td>Association for Financial Professionals (AFP)</td>
<td>Community Association Institute (CAI)</td>
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<td>American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (ABPLM)</td>
<td>Association of Surgical Technologists (AST)</td>
<td>Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)</td>
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<td>American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)</td>
<td>Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)</td>
<td>Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB)</td>
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<td>American Board of Wound Management (ABWM)</td>
<td>Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI)</td>
<td>Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)</td>
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<td>American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)</td>
<td>Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)</td>
<td>Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)</td>
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<td>American Medical Certification Association (AMCA)</td>
<td>Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)</td>
<td>Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA)</td>
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<td>Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)</td>
<td>Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA)</td>
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<td>Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB)</td>
<td>ETA International (ETA)</td>
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<td>Events Industry Council (EIC)</td>
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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 (IAHCSMM)
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 (ISC²)
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)