



October 23, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Tax  
Committee on Ways & Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Support 529 Plan Expansion to Include Postsecondary Credentials in Next Tax Package**

Dear Chairman Smith and Chairman Kelly:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)<sup>1</sup> writes to express support for inclusion of the **Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act** in the tax package that you and your Tax Teams are currently developing. The PCC appreciates your committee's approval of the legislation as Section 3 of H.R. 8915, the Education and Workforce Freedom Act, during your July 9, 2024, committee markup. We urge the Committee to continue the momentum for this legislation by including it in the comprehensive tax bill you are crafting.

The bipartisan and bicameral Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow beneficiaries of 529 savings plans to use tax-exempt funds to pay for worker training, as well as expenses associated with obtaining and maintaining postsecondary credentials, including professional certifications. Expanding the definition of "qualified education expenses" to include recognized postsecondary credentials would transform 529 plans from "college savings plans" to "career savings plans." Utilizing the unique tax advantages that 529 plans offer, families could save money for beneficiaries at any stage of their careers and at any education level to boost job prospects and earning potential.

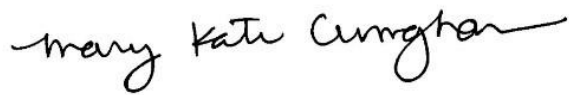
Certifications and other postsecondary credentials provide pathways to opportunity and to career growth across fields, from entry level restaurant service jobs (e.g., certifying safe food handling knowledge), to mid-career certifications in fields such as human resources and information technology, to certifications that reflect attainment of highly specialized knowledge, such as for professional engineers, chartered financial analysts, and physician assistants. Increased access to these postsecondary credentials can benefit nearly all Americans. This bill will provide 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, while ensuring that the tax benefits only apply to expenses associated with high quality credentials.

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<sup>1</sup> The PCC is a nonprofit association formed to address legislation that affects professional certification programs, those who hold private certification credentials, and the many constituencies that rely on professional certification. The PCC's organizational members include non-governmental professional certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC's members reflect a wide spectrum of professions, including health care, engineering, financial services, and information technology, among many others. Our founding organizations – 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) – govern the PCC.

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 achieve enactment of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,



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AABC Commissioning Group

ABRET Neurodiagnostic  
Credentialing & Accreditation  
(ABRET)

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

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

American Association of  
Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)

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

American Board of Certification  
for Gastroenterology Nurses  
(ABCGN)

American Board of Foot and  
Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)

American Board of  
Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)

American Board of Nursing  
Specialties (ABNS)

American Legal Nurse  
Consultant Certification Board  
(ALNCCB)  
American Medical Certification  
Association (AMCA)

American Nurses Credentialing  
Center (ANCC)

American Payroll Association  
(APA)

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)  
Arcitura Education, Inc.

Association for Financial  
Counseling & Planning  
Education (AFCPE)

Association of Surgical  
Technologists (AST)

Behavior Analyst Certification  
Board (BACB)

Beingcert

Board of Certified Safety  
Professionals (BCSP)

Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(BPS)

Building Commissioning  
Certification Board (BCCB)

Building Industry Consulting  
Service International, Inc.  
(BICSI)

Certification Board for Diabetes  
Care and Education (CBDCE)

Certification Board for Music  
Therapists (CBMT)

Certification Council for  
Professional Dog Trainers  
(CCPDT)

Certified Financial Planner  
Board of Standards (CFP Board)

Certified Fund Raising Executive  
International (CFRE)

Chartered Financial Analyst  
Institute (CFA Institute)

Commission for Case Manager  
Certification (CCMC)

Community Association  
Institute (CAI)

Competency & Credentialing  
Institute (CCI)  
Construction Management  
Association of America (CMAA)

Council of Engineering and  
Scientific Specialty Boards  
(CESB)

Dental Assisting National Board  
(DANB)

Diving Equipment and  
Marketing Association (DEMA)

Entertainment Services and  
Technology Association (ESTA)

ETA International

Financial Planning Association  
(FPA)

Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA)	National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)	Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)
Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Education Foundation (HPBA)	National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)
Heuristic Solutions		Pearson Vue
Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC)	National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
Human Resource Certification Institute, Inc. (HRCI)	National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)	Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)
Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)	National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)	Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)
Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)		PSI Services
International Coach Federation (ICF)	National Certification Corporation (NCC)	QualityPro
International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC <sup>2</sup> )	National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHCEC)	Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)
Investments & Wealth Institute (IWI)	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)	School Nutrition Association (SNA)
Irrigation Association		SeaCrest Consulting
IT Certification Council (ITCC)	National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)	Security Industry Association (SIA)
Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)	National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)	Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)	National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)	Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB)
National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)	National Restaurant Association (NRA)	Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)
National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)	National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)	Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)	National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)	