



# PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COALITION

## Summary of Professional Certification Coalition Strategy Call

October 24, 2018

### I. Introduction

- a. *Membership update:* The PCC reported that 100 members have signed up as of Oct. 24. (**Note:** As of the end of October, that number increased to 103 members.) The PCC Steering Committee continues to engage in outreach to prospective members, including participating in industry conferences. We appreciate the efforts of current members to recruit new members, as well.
- b. *Media:* Media coverage relating to the PCC will be posted on the PCC *Members Only* site. To the extent that PCC members work regularly with publications in their fields, we encourage you to reach out to those publications or put them in contact with the PCC to continue to publicize our activities and message.

### II. Ohio Legislation – Update and Next Steps

- a. As we have previously described, OH SB 255 contains several troubling provisions, including one that calls for the government to offer certification programs that would supplant or compete with private certification.
- b. We have been in touch with the sponsor of SB 255, Senator Rob McColley, who has told us he shares the view of our coalition that the government should not compete with voluntary, private certification. McColley is committed to changing the language of the current version of his bill that would allow for such competition, and we are currently negotiating revised language with the Senator and his staff.
- c. At this stage, we still believe that hiring a lobbyist on the ground in Columbus is not warranted, given the progress we are making, the direct lines of communication we have established with Sen. McColley, and the support we are receiving from allies on the ground. The Steering Committee will continue to re-evaluate whether a local lobbyist is needed as circumstances warrant.
- d. Similarly, we recommend refraining from grassroots/grasstops advocacy activity directed to Sen. McColley and/or other legislators, given the

progress we are making. However, PCC members may wish to have quiet conversations with certificants/members in Ohio about the bill, in case we need to change course. We have been advised by experienced lobbyists in Columbus that communications from Ohioans will be much more effective than communications from national organizations, so any future grassroots/grasstops activity should be focused on persuading Ohioans to engage in advocacy.

### III. Michigan Legislation – Update and Next Steps

- a. We continue to monitor HB 6114, an occupational licensing reform bill that has several troubling provisions. A hearing was held on the bill last month, but, to date, it has not yet advanced through a committee or onto the House or Senate floor.
- b. The PCC reported that our initial intelligence on HB 6114 indicated that the bill is a lower priority for its sponsor, Rep. Theis, and that there was little chance that it would advance during the short Michigan legislative lame-duck session, which is expected to start on or around Nov. 27 and last for 3-4 weeks. **Note:** We have learned in the past few days – since the PCC member call – that Rep. Theis may be interested in pushing for the bill’s passage during the lame-duck session. We are in contact with sources on the ground in Lansing who are promoting our message and are gathering intelligence on the status of the bill.
- c. As with Ohio, we recommend that members refrain, for the time being, from engaging in grassroots/grasstops advocacy activity and that PCC also refrain from hiring a lobbyist there. However, we are gathering intelligence on a daily basis and will adapt our strategy as necessary to ensure that a harmful version of the bill does not advance.

### IV. Missouri Follow-up

- a. As previously reported, in late May, the Missouri legislature passed two troublesome bills that were signed into law. Since that time, the PCC and several of our members have been focused on persuading decision makers in Missouri to improve or interpret those new laws via administrative guidance and/or new legislation. PCC member the CFP Board has taken the initiative to prepare such guidance and share it with the sponsor of the legislation in question; the PCC shared substantive feedback on a draft of the guidance in October. We appreciate the CFP Board’s leadership on this issue and will continue to provide updates to PCC members on strategy related to Missouri going forward.

### V. Update on Outreach to Stakeholder Target List – (ALEC, NCSL, Brookings, etc.)

- a. PCC members have held several meetings with stakeholders to discuss occupational licensing reform. In particular, in early October, we held a key meeting with the American Legislative Exchange Council, during which representatives from both organizations agreed that ALEC’s model

legislation should not undermine private certification (either intentionally or unintentionally). ALEC invited the PCC to share proposed revisions to its various model bills related to occupational licensing reform, which we have now done. **Note:** Since our member call, ALEC has produced a revised, draft model occupational licensing reform bill that incorporates some, but not all, of our proposed revisions. We will meet with ALEC again in November to determine if it is willing to make further changes consistent with the PCC's policy priorities.

- b. We have also held meetings with several other key nonpartisan stakeholders, including the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, and the Brookings Institution. We were pleased with how each of these meetings went and now have open lines of communication with each organization. In particular, we have been invited by NCSL to participate in its occupational licensing reform consortium meeting in late November.
- c. We will continue to schedule meetings with other stakeholders we have previously identified as central to the debate over occupational licensing reform, including the National Governors Association, Institute for Justice, Americans for Prosperity, Center for American Progress, and others. We appreciate the suggestion we received on the call to also reach out to Freedom Partners, which is closely aligned with ALEC and IJ.

## VI. Plan for Monitoring Pre-filed Bills

- a. Using several redundant legislative monitoring resources, members of the PCC Steering Committee are actively monitoring pre-filing state bills that may have an impact on private certification. Several states allow for pre-filing beginning in November. We are also talking to contacts of ours on the ground in several states. However, there is no substitute for on-the-ground intelligence; we encourage PCC members to please provide any valuable information on relevant state and federal legislative developments that they learn about from their members/certificants/allies.