

Professional Certification Coalition Member Strategy Call

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

11:00 a.m. EST

I. Introduction

- a. Welcome to the Second Fiscal Year of the PCC. Thank you for your membership, and for fulfilling your dues obligations during the first fiscal year.
- b. All members should have received invoices for the new fiscal year. Members may pay either in one lump sum or fulfill their dues obligations in two payments throughout the year.

II. PR Update

- a. The PCC webpage on “Media Coverage” now includes an article on the PCC and ASAE’s efforts regarding criminal history bills, which highlights the difference between certification and licensure. Members should feel free to circulate to their organization’s board members and to others who may have an interest in the PCC.
- b. We will continue to monitor news coverage and circulate relevant articles, as many include helpful talking points that illustrate the PCC’s concern regarding ongoing licensure requirements.

III. Strategic Discussions – State Legislation

- a. The PCC is monitoring fewer bills as the majority of state legislatures are out of session for the summer, but the PCC is still actively engaged in Missouri and Pennsylvania.
- b. Please feel free to refer to the PCC Watchlist for information about the bills the PCC is monitoring. Note that you will not see PA S. 637 or H.B. 1477, because these bills are not of concern to the PCC.
- c. Missouri Legislation
 - i. The PCC’s contract lobbying firm, Husch Blackwell Strategies, has been in frequent contact with the bill sponsors, committee chairs, and legislative leadership to advocate for the PCC’s interests. Given the numerous issues we are encountering in MO, we have retained Husch Blackwell through the end of the 2020 legislative session.
 - ii. The sponsor of S.B. 500 agreed to include the PCC’s proposed language, but the bill did not clear both chambers of the legislature before the end of the legislative session.

- iii. The good news is nothing harmful was enacted in Missouri and there is a strong opportunity to make progress during the 2020 session.
- iv. We have drafted a bill that Husch Blackwell is currently socializing with relevant legislators in that state.

d. Pennsylvania Legislation

- i. The legislature is on summer break and will be back in session at the end of September.
- ii. Thank you to all members who mobilized by sending correspondence to legislators and even traveling to Harrisburg to discuss the PCC's concerns about PA H.B. 811. To complement your efforts, the PCC has hired Judy Eschberger, a former legislative staffer, as its lobbyist in Pennsylvania. The legislature may be forming a working group focused on occupational licensing issues over the summer and Judy will work to include the PCC in any such activities. Our main message is that we are comfortable with S. 637 or H.B. 1477 – occupational licensing bills that contain no troublesome provisions – as alternatives to H.B. 811.
- iii. We are monitoring efforts in Pennsylvania to introduce legislation regarding the minimum wage that will likely to be accompanied by changes in workforce policies, including occupational licensing reform.
- iv. Please feel free to refer to the PCC Watchlist for information about the bills the PCC is monitoring. You will not see PA S. 637 or H.B. 1477 because these bills are not of concern to us.

IV. Strategic Discussion – Federal Legislation

- a. S. 379 – Use of 529 plan funds for expenses associated with obtaining certifications
 - i. This bill is sponsored by Senator (and presidential candidate) Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and would allow funds in 529 college savings plans to be used for expenses associated with postsecondary credentials.
 - ii. The PCC has been in frequent contact with Sen. Klobuchar's staff and they are very open to expanding that bill to not only cover certificate and certification programs, but also expenses associated with exams and certification maintenance. If the bill goes through, it will be modified to include more language regarding the cost of both obtaining and maintaining certification. We are also in talks with the staff of some House members to introduce a companion bill to S. 379.
 - iii. The PCC will soon send a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee (the committee with jurisdiction over S. 379), encouraging them to support and advance the legislation. This letter can be

used as a template for organizations to send letters to key senators. The PCC will also draft model grassroots correspondence that you can share with your members/certificants.

b. Fair Chance Licensing Act

- i. The PCC has scheduled a meeting with Senator Booker's judiciary counsel to discuss our concerns and share our perspective on the legislation. We will provide an update to members regarding that conversation.
- ii. During a conversation with Senator Gardner (R-CO), we found out that Senator Pat Toomey (R- PA) is interested in licensure reform. Senator Toomey's staff indicated to us that he would like to make an effort to address licensure via federal legislation in the coming year.
- iii. No action needed from members at this stage.

V. Other Activity

- a. Now that we are through the first legislative season, we would like to take time to revisit our conversations with key stakeholders on these issues, including ALEC, IJ, and Women in Government. If members have any conversations with any interest groups, please let us know and we can coordinate with you regarding those communications.
- c. The Criminal History White Paper is still in process. ICE is doing a survey among its certification bodies regarding how they use criminal history in evaluating their prospective certificants and renewing certificants.

VI. Questions from Members

- a. *How we are approaching PA bills-should we use the same approach that we are using in MO?*

For the time being, we are playing the inside game via our lobbyist, Judy Eschberger, and are seeing how the dynamics plays out. As such, no grasstops or grassroots advocacy activity is recommended at present during the legislative recess. We will reassess this approach, with guidance from our lobbyist, when the legislature resumes session in a few weeks.

VII. Thank you for your continued membership with the PCC.