



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

February 4, 2021

Senator Mary Kiffmeyer  
*Chair*, State Government Finance and Policy  
and Elections Committee  
3103 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Sen.mary.kiffmeyer@senate.mn

Senator Jeff R. Howe  
*Vice Chair*, State Government Finance and  
Policy and Elections Committee  
3231 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
sen.jeff.howe@senate.mn

**Re: Minnesota H.F. 266**

Dear Senator Kiffmeyer and Senator Howe:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes regarding the potential harmful effects of H.F. 266 on important protections for the public. The PCC strongly opposes the bill's proposed complete prohibition against occupational licensing, as it threatens the health, safety, and welfare of Minnesota citizens who trust the state to protect the public from low-quality or harmful services. The bill's indiscriminate approach to abolishing all occupational licensing laws and statutes abdicates the legislature's responsibility to the public and treats all regulated occupations as if they were the same.

The PCC is a nonprofit association formed to address legislative initiatives that affect 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, professional and civil 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.

Members of the PCC provide certifications that communicate to the public that certified professionals have met established standards for knowledge, skill, and competency in their fields. As subject matter experts, private certification organizations are in the best position to develop and define the *content* of the standards that certificants must demonstrate to earn a recognized credential in their field. Private certification is not a substitute for occupational licensure, however, in fields such as health care, safety-related roles, and the engineering and financial industries. For those occupations, regulatory agencies have incorporated the competency standards established by private professional certification programs into licensure requirements. For these professions, *enforcement* of competency and conduct standards is more effectively done by the licensing agency. In professions for which state licensing boards have

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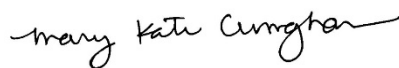
historically provided oversight, it would not serve the public interest to eliminate or weaken licensure requirements and shift the enforcement function currently performed by licensure boards onto private certification programs. A private certification organization lacks the legal authority and the resources to serve as a substitute for a licensing board for a profession for which licensure is required to protect public health, safety, or welfare.

The PCC supports efforts to remove unnecessary barriers to entry into professions to promote market competition and employment opportunities. However, in its current form, H.F. 266 would prevent the state of Minnesota from enforcing “any statute, session law, or administrative rule that relates to an occupational licensing requirement,” without exceptions. This would allow, for example, any unqualified individual to lawfully attempt to practice brain surgery, dispense medication, or design and build highway bridges without state oversight or evidence of their qualifications. Licensure laws set the baseline levels of professional competence required to protect the public from financial and bodily harm. Removing occupational licensing in its entirety would not only go against the best interest of Minnesota citizens, but would actively endanger them.

Although ordinarily the PCC seeks to identify amendments to remedy harmful provisions in bills, the categorical approach to abolishing all occupational licensure taken by H.F. 266 is not amenable to amendment. We respectfully request that you and your colleagues on the Committee not advance H.F. 266 to a floor vote, in order to avoid endangering Minnesota citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of the PCC’s position. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information identified below.

Sincerely,



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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 &

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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)	Inteleos (includes the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement (APCA))	National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA)
Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)	Irrigation Association	National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)
Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB)	International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM)	National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)
Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)	International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)	National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA)
Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)	International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)	National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)
Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA)	International Coach Federation (ICF)	National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)
Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA)	International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE)	National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)
ETA International (ETA)	International Society of Automation (ISA)	National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
Events Industry Council (EIC)	Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)	National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
Financial Planning Association (FPA)	International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC <sup>2</sup> )	National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE)
Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Education Foundation	IT Certification Council (ITCC)	National Certification Corporation (NCC)
Heuristic Solutions	Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC)	Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)	National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)		
Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA)		
Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)		
Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)		

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National Council on  
Family Relations (NCFR)

National Recreation and  
Park Association (NRPA)

National Restaurant  
Association (NRA)

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)