



PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATION
COALITION

January 9, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

The undersigned members of the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) write to express our strong support for H.R. 5339, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act, and to encourage you to consider this bipartisan legislation in the Committee on Ways and Means as soon as possible. H.R. 5339, introduced by Reps. Spanberger and Wittman, will allow individuals who hold or seek professional certifications to have greater flexibility in pursuing educational and career opportunities and will help more people enter and thrive in the workforce.

The PCC is a nonprofit association established to address legislation that affects professional certification programs and those who hold professional credentials. The PCC has over 100 members, including nongovernmental certification organizations, professional societies and service providers. The PCC's members reflect a wide spectrum of professions, including health care, professional and civil engineering, human resources, financial services, and information technology, among many others. The PCC advances the best interests of those who use or rely on professional certification—such as employers, reimbursors, and the general public—as well as of individual certified professionals.

H.R. 5339 would amend the tax code to permit beneficiaries to use funds in 529 savings plans to pay for expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining postsecondary credentials, which include professional certificates or certifications. In particular, beneficiaries would be able to use their 529 funds to pay for costs related to certification exams and certification maintenance, such as practice exams, test prep materials, exam fees, continuing education fees, and renewal dues.

By enabling people to use 529 funds to cover certification-related education, examinations, and other expenses, H.R. 5339 would greatly expand the reach of tax-advantaged 529 benefits to cover a much broader and more diverse group of individuals seeking to enter the workforce or advance in their occupations. These benefits would be available to individuals who are not pursuing a four-year college degree and those who have already entered the workforce – either with or without a college degree – but need a professional certification to progress in their field or to change career paths. H.R. 5339 would ease barriers to these opportunities by covering expenses necessary to achieve these goals.

The ability to use a 529 plan to cover costs associated with obtaining or maintaining a postsecondary credential will be highly valuable to individuals seeking opportunities for career growth and is a natural complement to using 529 plans for expenses associated with college or apprenticeships, as currently

permitted under the law. Therefore, the PCC and its members encourage you and your colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5339 and push for its advancement through the legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration. If your staff would like to discuss the PCC's support for H.R. 5339 further, please feel free to contact Craig Saperstein, partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP and counsel to the PCC, at craig.saperstein@pillsburylaw.com.

Sincerely,

PCC Steering Committee

American Society of Association Executives
Institute for Credentialing Excellence

PCC Members

American Association for Clinical Chemistry
ABRET Neurodiagnostic Credentialing & Accreditation
ABSA International: the Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals
Agilutions
American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nurses
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association of Professional Landmen
American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics
American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses
American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery
American Board of Wound Management
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Medical Certification Association
American Nurses Credentialing Center
American Payroll Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association Foundation
American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
American Translators Association (ATA)
American Veterinary Medical Association
APICS
Associated General Contractors of America
Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education
Association for Financial Professionals
Association of Surgical Technologists
Behavior Analyst Certification Board
Building Industry Consulting Services International
Board of Certification of Nutrition Specialists
Board of Certification/Accreditation
Board of Certified Safety Professionals
Board of Pharmacy Specialties
Building Commissioning Certification Board
Community Associations Institute and Community Association Managers International
Certification Board
CCIM Institute
CFA Institute
Certification Board for Music Therapists
Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards
Certified Fund Raising Executive International
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
Commission for Case Manager Certification
Commission on Nurse Certification
CompTIA

Construction Management Association of America
Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards
Dental Assisting National Board
Design-Build Institute of America
Diving Equipment and Marketing Association
Entertainment Services and Technology Association
Entomological Society of America Certification Corporation
ETA International
Events Industry Council
Financial Planning Association
Heuristic Solutions
Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center
HR Certification Institute
Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation
Institute of Certified Management Accountants
Institute of Hazardous Materials Management
Institute of Internal Auditors
Inteleos
Irrigation Association
International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management
International Association of Lighting Designers
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
International Coach Federation
International Foundation for Retirement Education
International Society of Automation
Institute of Real Estate Management
Information Systems Audit and Control Association
International Information System Security Certification Consortium
IT Certification Council
LBA Technology, Inc.
Laborers' International Union of North America
Training & Education Fund
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board
National Apartment Association

National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
National Association of Safety Professionals
National Association of Personal Financial Advisors
National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc.
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences
National Kitchen and Bath Association
National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy
National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators
National Certification Corporation
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
National Council on Family Relations
National Recreation and Park Association
National Restaurant Association (NRA)
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board
Pharmacy Technician Certification Board
Prometric
PSI Services
School Nutrition Association
SeaCrest Consulting
Security Industry Association
Society of Broadcast Engineers
Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc.