PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COALITION

March 14, 2023

Del. Chris Phillips, *Chair*
House Committee on Government Organization
chris.phillips@wvhouse.gov

Del. Patrick McGeehan, *Vice Chair*
House Committee on Government Organization
pat.mcgeehan@wvhouse.gov

Del. Kayla Young, *Minority Chair*
House Committee on Government Organization
kayla.young@wvhouse.gov

Del. Mike Pushkin, *Minority Vice Chair*
House Committee on Government Organization
mike.pushkin@wvhouse.gov

Re: S.B. 419

Dear Delegates Phillips, McGeehan, Young, and Pushkin:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes to share our views regarding S.B. 419. The PCC applauds S.B. 419 for ensuring out-of-state applicants for licensure are not held to lower standards than West Virginia expects of its own residents. The PCC proposes additional amendments to require the board to also determine that scopes of practice are equivalent.

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. Our 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.

The PCC supports reducing unnecessary barriers for licensed professionals who move to a new state. However, not all state-specific requirements are unwarranted: substantive state-specific licensing requirements protect the public from unqualified or unethical practitioners and uphold the integrity of licensed professions as a whole.

The PCC urges the legislature to amend S.B. 419 as necessary to reflect the attached Statement of Principles and the following amendments:

- Amend Section 30-1B-2(a)(1) to read: "Has been awarded a military occupational specialty **in an occupation or profession with a substantially similar scope of practice to that in this state** and has done all of the following at a level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration of the board from which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this state."

- Amend Section 30-1B-3(a)(1) to read "Holds a current license, certification, or registration **in an occupation or profession with a substantially similar scope of practice to that in this state** from another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's requirements for licensure, certification, or registration are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration of the board for which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this state.

This bill directly affects protections for the public and PCC members that confer credentials to professionals in regulated occupations, such as health care, in which certification by recognized private certification organizations is a condition of licensure. Certification organizations exist to establish standards of knowledge and skill for a profession, and to assure the public that certified individuals have demonstrated that they are qualified to practice their professions competently and safely. If, due to variations in licensing laws, alternative pathways to licensure allow unqualified or unfit individuals to practice, the public's trust in certified professionals and their regulated professions will be irreparably damaged, especially for occupations in which the public conflates certification status with licensure.

Even PCC members that issue certifications to individuals in fields that do not require licensure have an interest in this issue. Certification organizations – and professional societies that represent individuals who hold certification credentials – rely on the role of licensing agencies to protect the public. By their nature, they are also interested in upholding professional standards for knowledge, skills, conduct, and qualifications. If reciprocal licensure laws create loopholes that weaken how state licensing agencies enforce such standards, this is a matter of great concern to the certification community.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and consideration of the PCC's views. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information identified below.

Sincerely,

Jeff Evans
Director, Public Policy
ASAE: The Center for Association Leadership
Phone: (202) 626-2722
Email: jevans@asaecenter.org

Denise Roosendaal, FASAE, CAE
Executive Director
Institute for Credentialing Excellence
Phone: (202) 367-1165
Email: droosendaal@credentialingexcellence.org

CC:

Sen. Ryan Weld
ryan.weld@wvsenate.gov

Sen. Vince Deeds
vince.deeds@wvsenate.gov

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COALITION

Member List

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 Professional Landmen (AAPL)

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 Medical Specialties (ABMS)

American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)

American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS)

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

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)

Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)

Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)

Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)

Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB)

Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE)

Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT)

Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC)

Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT)

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP)

Certified Fund Raising Executive International (CFRE)

CertiProf, LLC

Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA)

Commission for Case Manager Certification (CCMC)

Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC)

Community Association Institute (CAI)

Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)

Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)

Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ)

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)

Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Education Foundation (HPBA)

Heuristic Solutions

Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center (HPCC)

Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)

Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)

Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)

International Coach Federation (ICF)

International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC²)

Investments & Wealth Institute (IWI)

Irrigation Association

IT Certification Council (ITCC)

Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)

Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)

National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)

National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)

National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)

National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)

National Certification Corporation (NCC)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)

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 (NNCC)

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)

PSI Services

Pearson Vue

QualityPro

Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)

School Nutrition Association (SNA)

SeaCrest Consulting

Security Industry Association (SIA)

Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)

Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB) c/o National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)

National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)