



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

April 3, 2023

Rep. Joseph Gullett  
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Rep. Scott Hilton  
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Rep. Marcus Wiedower  
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Rep. Al Williams  
[al.williams@house.ga.gov](mailto:al.williams@house.ga.gov)

**Re: H.B. 575**

Dear Representatives Gullett, Hilton, Wiedower, and Williams:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes regarding the potential negative effects of H.B. 575. In its current form, H.B. 575 would permit individuals to challenge occupational licensing regulations, inviting administrative burden and expensive litigation. H.B. 575 could have an adverse effect on the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia citizens who trust the state to protect the public from low-quality or harmful services and could also compel the state to expend taxpayer dollars unnecessarily. **For these reasons, unless the bill is amended to remove Sections 43-1-8(a)(1) and (d), the PCC must oppose H.B. 575.** The PCC urges you to follow the lead of legislators in Indiana who initially introduced a similar bill (IN H.B. 1343) but then amended the bill in Committee to remove these provisions, enabling the bill to advance.

The PCC is a nonpartisan, 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 certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC's 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 the objective of careful review of licensure laws to ensure that unnecessary obstacles to the practice of professions is lightened or removed. However, H.B. 575 invites a burdensome petition process and costly litigation against government agencies by directly creating a private right of action for individuals to seek injunctions against licensure regulations. The PCC opposes these provisions of the bill, for several reasons. *First*, the bill effectively shifts the burden of proof to the government in all cases, as any petitioner would be able to meet the threshold of burden of showing that a regulation “burdens the entry into a profession or occupation.” By definition, all licensure laws do that.

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*Second*, the government would bear the burden of proof in establishing that the challenged regulation is currently applicable and necessary, fulfills a legitimate objective, and is the least restrictive regulation available for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Georgia, according to the hierarchy of least restrictive to most restrictive listed in the bill. No government agency will have data comparing the effects of regulation according to that hierarchy, because that list was not an element required to be considered at the time of adoption of the regulations.

Moreover, inviting costly litigation that the state would have to defend would waste limited state resources and taxpayer dollars. The threat and likelihood of litigation, and the cost burden of the resulting legal expenses, would create significant budgetary pressures on the state to eliminate occupational licensure wherever feasible, even when doing so would not be in the best interest of Georgia citizens.

While the PCC stands ready to work with lawmakers who are seeking to craft legislation that strikes a reasonable balance between the benefits of occupational licensing and the desire for free markets in employment, this legislation goes too far in removing protections for the public.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. 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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cc:

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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 Board)  
Certified Fund Raising  
Executive International (CFRE)  
CertiProf, LLC

Chartered Financial Analyst  
Institute (CFA Institute)  
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 (ISC<sup>2</sup>)

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)