



**Agenda**  
**PCC Member Strategy Call**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**  
**01:00 pm ET**

*Steering Committee:* ICE (Denise Roosendaal), ASAE (Jeff Evans)

*Legal Counsel:* Jerry Jacobs, Craig Saperstein, Julia Judish, Nicole Steinberg, Lori Panosyan, Laura Killalea (Pillsbury)

**1. Welcome**

- a. After skipping a month, we're eager to get back together with you today as Congress returns and we continue to be hard at work on our federal priorities.
- b. As we do annually, we will be changing the password to the members-only portion of the PCC website on October 1st. We will send the password to members who have paid all or the first installment of dues on or before October 1st.

**2. Guest Speaker: Meredith Martino, Executive Director of Women in Government (WiG)**

- a. A key part of the PCC's work is stakeholder engagement – this is where we publicize the organization and its mission to groups that have an influence on the policy we monitor.
- b. We wanted to give our members a window into this work by inviting the executive director of Women in Government (WiG) to join our call today.
- c. The PCC has engaged with WiG for a number of years, both by putting on webinars and attending in-person meetings, and we are grateful to have an ongoing dialogue with such an influential organization.
- d. ***Meredith Martino's remarks:***
  - i. WiG does not work with federal, city, or county officials and is focused on empowering female state legislators.
  - ii. There are about 7,000 state legislators across the country and when they all convene it can be hard to make connections. WiG offers a more intimate space to have serious conversations about policy.
  - iii. WiG reaches female state legislators in different ways, including two conferences a year and working with private sector partners to put out content and presentations (e.g. webinars) on timely topics.
  - iv. As a 501(c)(3), WiG is a facilitator between legislators and private sector subject matters, like the PCC. This presents real opportunities to get things

done quickly – well timed conversations can yield significant policy results.

- v. WiG has three policy themes/areas of focus: (1) access to healthcare; (2) resilient communities; and (3) strong economies.
- vi. The third area encompasses workforce development and credentialing. We frequently discuss reciprocity between states and the stringency of standards and what that means for practitioners and clients and how legislators can ensure trust between them.
- vii. WiG has an all-legislator board of directors consisting of seven republicans and seven democrats. It's a bipartisan organization and does not endorse legislation or take policy positions. Accordingly, WiG looks to non-partisan workhorse issues to focus on.
- viii. WiG works hard to promote respect and civility and legislators have said this is one of the things they like most about the organization. This is also a reason WiG attracts “policy serious” legislators.

**e. *Julia Judish's remarks:***

- i. The PCC really appreciates its partnership with WiG. Tom Granatir of ABMS worked with the PCC to put on a presentation about protecting certification with Maine Rep. Kristin Cloutier.
- ii. The PCC is not advancing new bills on the state side, it is detecting threats to the certification community and the WiG conferences and webinars give us the opportunity to reach legislators and educate them about the issues we're concerned about before they see an actual piece of legislation. Those legislators may be on committees reviewing the bills and if they're already oriented to the issues and our concerns, they may do some of our work for us and have a lot more sway than we do. This is one of the reasons we keep coming back to WiG year after year.

**f. *Meredith:***

- i. WiG legislators love to be smart on issues. People at our conferences look like they're in law school, with pages and pages of notes!
- ii. Because we have a reputation for being nonpartisan/bipartisan, we attract those that are open and curious and want to learn.
- iii. Women are up to about a third of the state legislative seats, and there are some states where women are 50% or more (e.g. NV). We are increasingly seeing women serve in leadership roles too, like speaker pro tempore.

**g. *Member question:* Do legislative staff members also attend?**

h. **Meredith:**

- i. They often attend webinars, but not the conferences. We incentivize legislators to attend the conferences with a scholarship, which is not available to legislative staff. Sometimes they attend when we're in a host state.

i. **Craig Saperstein's remarks:**

- i. We see great value in our partnership with WiG. As a non-profit, we have to consider the cost-effectiveness of collaborating with partners and Meredith hit on many of the reasons we prioritize our relationship with WiG.
- ii. When I've attended the national legislative summit, I've have built real relationships with state legislators and called on such legislators long after the conference.
- iii. It is very clear that WiG members get along with each other and come prepared to find bipartisan solutions.
- iv. Thank you, Meredith, for joining us today!

### 3. Updates on Federal Legislative Activity

a. **Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act (H.R. 1477/S.722)**

- i. Since we introduced the bill in March, we have made significant progress. We now have 56 official co-sponsors in the House and additional members are in the process of joining on.
- ii. We also secured our first Senate co-sponsor, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS). She evens out the bipartisanship on the Senate side with our ten sponsors.
- iii. One of the three new house cosponsors is an important gatekeeper: Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), who chairs the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax. If he is not okay with the bill, Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO), the Chair of the full committee, is less likely to move it along.
- iv. We also secured Rep. Mike Collins, who is leading the aviation effort regarding pilot schools.
- v. There are a lot of people we can and are reaching out to, and it has been working!

b. **Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition**

- i. Approximately half of the PCC's membership has signed on to the coalition. At the start of this meeting, we had 602 organizations and we're

now at 615 and counting.

- ii. We plan to deliver our sign-on letter next Tuesday, addressed to the ranking members of the House Committee on Ways and Means and their counterparts in the Senate Finance Committee.
- iii. Now when we're meeting with offices, they're familiar with the bill when we first enter a conversation.
- iv. Our top priority is securing a Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee. **If any members have a relationship with the staff on the Ways and Means committee, and specifically Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), please let us know.**
- v. The House Ways and Means Committee holds a member day once or twice a year where members of Congress can testify about their priority legislation that affects the tax code, and we have an opportunity to submit a comment.
- vi. We have some really great momentum – our bill is the leading bill on using 529 plans for credentialing.

**c. REBUILD Skills Act**

- i. The REBUILD Skills Act has not yet been introduced after 2.5 years. However, Rep. Derek Kilmer's (D-WA) staff shared an updated legislative text with us and said they very much want to introduce it.
- ii. We're candidly surprised – we introduced this bill in connection with the pandemic as an opportunity for those who had been displaced by it. We have moved away from that to a broader focus, which is hopefully why we are finally unlocking some activity.
- iii. As a recap, this bill would provide financial assistance to eligible persons to go toward post-secondary credentials and skills training.
- iv. An eligible person is someone who has exhausted unemployment benefits or is a military servicemember transitioning from active duty.
- v. The certification or training program provides the scholarships and are reimbursed on the back end, which means that eligible individuals do not have to apply to the government for assistance.
- vi. Only approved certification training programs could do this, so the onus would be on the certification or training program to be viewed as a qualified entity. This would also result in a federal centralized directory of legitimate, reputable certification programs.

#### 4. Updates on State Legislative Activity

- a. Updated watchlists and the executive summary are on Members Only portion of PCC website.
- b. Most states have ended their legislative session for the year, but we continue to monitor activity.
- c. High priority bill monitoring:

State	Bill Number	Category	Last Movement	Notes
Massachusetts	H 348/SD 2536	Ex-offender Reentry	05/26/2023	Still in first chamber
Nebraska	LB 16	Ex-offender Reentry/ Reciprocity	04/18/2023	Failed Sine Die
North Carolina	SB 641/HB 819	First Amendment Interference/ Viewpoint Restriction	04/27/2023	Failed to Pass Crossover Deadline
New Hampshire	HB 507	Consumer Choice	03/24/2023	Failed Sine Die
Wisconsin	SB 191/AB 202	Ex-offender Reentry (variant)	06/08/2023	Passed first chamber (AB 202)

#### 5. Stakeholder Outreach

- a. We are monitoring model legislation that is under development or has been published by stakeholder organizations. We are gathering intelligence on who the players are on these issues and what priorities we need to focus on as we prepare for next year's legislative session.
- b. We will provide updates on what we learn.