



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

February 16, 2024

Sen. Javan Mesnard, *Chair*  
Senate Committee on Finance and Commerce  
[jmesnard@azleg.gov](mailto:jmesnard@azleg.gov)

Rep. Shawna Bolick, *Vice Chair*  
Senate Committee on Finance and Commerce  
[sbolick@azleg.gov](mailto:sbolick@azleg.gov)

**Re: SB 1565**

Dear Senator Mesnard and Senator Bolick:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)<sup>1</sup> writes to share our views regarding SB 1565. In its current form, SB 1565 would create an unwarranted exception to licensure standards on which the public relies. While the PCC's preference is to work with bill sponsors on amendments where we identify areas of disagreements, these aspects of the bill are core to the legislation. The PCC accordingly must oppose SB 1565; we explain the basis for our concerns below.

The PCC recognizes that not all occupations may require formal higher education for an individual to gain the necessary expertise to practice that occupation, and the PCC supports the development and recognition of apprenticeship programs as alternative pathways to entry into some regulated occupations. The PCC's concern about SB 1565, however, is that it treats all regulated professions in the same way. Title 32 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, which the bill would amend, governs licensing requirements for occupations as varied as physicians, cosmetologists, professional engineers, real estate agents, and dentists. The bill does not distinguish between these occupations, but provides that, notwithstanding any other law, each regulating authority in Title 32 "shall establish criteria for granting licenses ... through apprenticeship programs."

Determining whether an alternative pathway is appropriate requires the balancing the need to protect the public and the interests of lowering costs, promoting market competition, and reducing barriers to entry to an occupation, by reviewing the specific requirements for earning a license, certificate, or registration in each profession. However, as currently drafted, SB 1565 mandates all occupations – from barbers to CPAs to radiologists – to establish a pathway to bypass current requirements through an apprenticeship program.

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<sup>1</sup> The PCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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. 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.

For these reasons, the PCC opposes SB 1565 in its current form and will be urging the committee of jurisdiction to refrain from advancing this legislation. The PCC would not oppose an amended version of the bill that proposes apprenticeship pathways to licensure only for specific occupations that already have approved apprenticeship programs in place, but the Arizona legislature is better positioned than the PCC to identify those occupations.

The PCC stands ready to work with lawmakers who seek to craft legislation that strikes a reasonable balance between the benefits of occupational regulation and the desire for free markets in employment. Unfortunately, in its current form, this legislation goes too far in removing protections for the public.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues. Please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information identified below.

Sincerely,



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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 Legal Nurse  
Consultant Certification Board  
(ALNCCB)

American Medical Certification  
Association (AMCA)

American Nurses Credentialing  
Center (ANCC)

American Payroll Association  
(APA)

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Association Executives (ASAE)

American Society of Civil  
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Arcitura Education, Inc.

Association for Financial  
Counseling & Planning  
Education (AFCPE)

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Technologists (AST)

Behavior Analyst Certification  
Board (BACB)

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Certification/Accreditation  
(BOC)

Board of Certified Safety  
Professionals (BCSP)

Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(BPS)

Building Commissioning  
Certification Board (BCCB)

Building Industry Consulting  
Service International, Inc.  
(BICSI)

Certification Board for Diabetes  
Care and Education (CBDCE)

Certification Board for Music  
Therapists (CBMT)

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)

Construction Management  
Association of America  
(CMAA)

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)

Human Resource Certification  
Institute, Inc. (HRCI)

Institute for Credentialing  
Excellence (ICE)

Institute of Hazardous Materials  
Management (IHMM)

International Coach Federation  
(ICF)

International Information  
System Security Certification  
Consortium (ISC<sup>2</sup>)

Investments & Wealth Institute  
(IWI)

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|---|---|
| Irrigation Association  | National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)                           |
| IT Certification Council (ITCC)   | National Restaurant Association (NRA)                                     |
| Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)    | National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)                           |
| Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)                                | National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)                         |
| National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)                    | Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)                        |
| National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)                         | Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)                         |
| National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)     | Pearson Vue   |
| National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) | Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)                              |
| National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)            | Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)                            |
| National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)                     | Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) |
| National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)                                   | PSI Services  |
| National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)               | QualityPro  |
| National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)    | Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)                         |
| National Certification Corporation (NCC)  | School Nutrition Association (SNA)  |
| National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)                      | SeaCrest Consulting   |
| National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)                | Security Industry Association (SIA)                                       |
| National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)   | Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)                                      |
| National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)  | Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB)                             |
|   | Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)                                   |
|   | Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)                    |