



February 23, 2024

Rep. Anthony Kern
1700 W Washington St
Capitol Complex, Room 304
Phoenix, AZ 85007
akern@azleg.gov

Re: SB 1468

Dear Rep. Kern:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)¹ writes regarding SB 1468. We respectfully request amendments to the bill to ensure that licensing agencies can carry out their statutory responsibilities, to enable private certification organizations to preserve the integrity of their credentials, and to protect the public.

The PCC agrees that political beliefs or political affiliations should not be a basis to subject any person to denial, suspension, or revocation of an occupational license or other state-issued authorization to practice a regulated occupation. However, differences in political views should also not automatically exempt any person from the generally applicable rules and procedures of licensing authorities. An occupational license conveys the state's endorsement that an applicant or licensee is fit to practice the profession without jeopardizing public health, safety, and welfare. **Licensing boards must be able to make decisions that hold applicants and current licensees to consistent eligibility and disciplinary standards**, regardless of whether the applicant or licensee contends the license denial or disciplinary action had political overtones.

For these reasons, the PCC urges an amendment to the bill, so as not to clog the courts with claims by those who assert, without evidence, that political bias rather than their qualifications or actions resulted in an adverse licensing decision. Specifically, the PCC asks for the following amendment to Section 41-1093.08.A:

- Notwithstanding any other law, a licensee, certificate holder, registrant or applicant may forgo an administrative appeal and seek judicial review of an agency's denial, suspension or revocation of an occupational license if the licensee, certificate holder, registrant or applicant **believes presents evidence that** the denial, suspension or revocation was **taken**

¹ 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 political reasons or due to political bias **and that there were not adequate grounds for the denial, suspension, or revocation.**

In addition, the existing statute the legislation seeks to amend refers broadly not only to occupational licenses but also to “any similar form of permission that allows an individual to use an occupational title or work in a lawful occupation, trade or profession.” Some regulated professions in Arizona require licensees to hold a current private certification in order to qualify for a license. To avoid having this legislation misconstrued as creating a new cause of action against private certification organizations, the PCC also urges addition of a clarifying provision:

- **“Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter or impair any requirement in a licensure statute or regulation for an individual to hold current private certification as a condition of licensure or renewal of licensure.”**

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments. 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)
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)
Beingcert
Board of
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 (ISC²)
Investments & Wealth Institute
(IWI)

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)