



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COALITION

Notes

PCC Member Strategy Call Tuesday, December 17, 2024 1:00 pm ET

Steering Committee: I.C.E. (Denise Roosendaal), ASAE (Mary Kate Cunningham)

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

1. Welcome/Membership Updates

- a. Thank you for your continued engagement and happy holidays!
- b. The new password for the *For Members* section of the website became effective on October 1, 2024, and has been sent to members who have fulfilled their dues obligation.
- c. Members that have elected to pay their membership dues in two installments will receive an invoice for the second payment in January 2025.

2. Guest Speakers: Credential Integrity Action Alliance (CIAA)

- a. Michael Clifton, CIAA Executive Director Team Vice President
- b. Rachel Schoenig, CIAA Board Member
- c. CIAA is a 501(c)(4) coalition of educational institutions, testing programs, and testing vendors working to combat commercial cheating or “cheating for hire,” such as proxy test takers, proxy mills, and sale of test items and questions.
- d. The commercial cheating industry includes both well-funded, publicly traded companies and “mom and pop shops,” both in and outside the U.S.
- e. Commercial cheating undermines public trust in education and assessment, exposes the public to harm from unqualified practitioners, and at the cyber security level, threatens national security.
- f. Despite this, there are no federal laws to address the practice of commercial cheating. There are 17 states with laws, but they are specific to academic entities, which do not include certification and licensure testing.
- g. CIAA has drafted a model state statute that it aims to have introduced in 2025 in CO, NE, IA, MO, AR, LA, TX, GA, NJ OH. The legislation provides civil and criminal remedies with a penalty of up to \$2,500 per violation.



3. Federal Legislative Activity

a. Update on Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition

- i. It's go time! Major tax reform legislation is planned for early in the next Congress to extend and expand the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and we are hoping to include the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act in it.
- ii. Through the budget reconciliation procedure, tax-related legislation (including the Freedom to Invest bill) only requires a simple majority to pass.
- iii. We have been in constant contact with the bill sponsors and the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction.
- iv. We'll be in touch with you at the beginning of next year to inform you of ways you can support this effort.

b. Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition (TWC) – Paid Membership Opportunity

- i. The Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition (TWC) was created as a separate organizing body solely focused on this bill. We currently have close to 900 members, including numerous PCC members.
- ii. For members who want a deeper level of engagement, we have sent information via email about a paid membership opportunity and will provide further information next year when our bill is reintroduced. We appreciate PCC members' consideration of paid membership in the TWC to help us get this bill over the finish line.

c. New Federal Legislative Priority: Benefits for Servicemembers to Obtain Certifications

- i. We previously informed you that the Army planned to cut its program that provides servicemembers with benefits to obtain and maintain certifications.
- ii. In the last few weeks, the Army has unfortunately proceeded with the planned reductions and cut the \$4,000 annual benefit in half to \$2,000. The benefit cap has also been reduced to one credentialing course per year and a limit of three per decade.¹
- iii. The PCC is considering engaging with the Department of Defense (DOD) and Congress on this issue in the next session.

¹ See Steve Beynon, *Army Cuts Popular Education Benefit in Half, Bars Officers as Costs Soar*, MILITARY.COM (Dec. 12, 2024) <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/12/10/army-cuts-popular-education-benefit-half-bars-officers-costs-soar.html?amp=>.



4. State Legislative Activity

- a. We continue to prepare for another year of legislative monitoring.
- b. Unfortunately, a high priority bill, OH HB 238, has passed the Senate and is awaiting signature by the governor.
- c. It prohibits any Ohio licensing agency from adopting, providing, approving for credit, counting for credit, or requiring for completion of continuing education a number of prohibited concepts related to DEI

State	Bill Number	Category	Last Movement	Status
OH	HB 238	First Amendment	12/11/2024	Passed Second Chamber

5. Plans for March 2025 In-Person Member Meeting

- a. Our 2025 in-person meeting will be held on March 5, 2025, in Washington, DC.
- b. Please save the date!
- c. We will also be offering a lobbying opportunity for the Freedom to Invest legislation – stay tuned for more information.

6. Potential Federal Trends in the New Administration

- a. Pillsbury, the law firm that represents the PCC, has launched a [Trump 2.0 Resource Center](#) where thought leadership and the latest updates about the incoming administration and Congress can be found.