



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
COALITION

February 13, 2026

Sen. Andrew O. Brenner, *Chair*  
Senate Education Committee  
brenner@ohiosenate.gov

Sen. Louis W. Blessing, *Vice Chair*  
Senate Education Committee  
blessing@ohiosenate.gov

**Re: SB 311**

Dear Senators Brenner and Blessing:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)<sup>1</sup> writes in support of SB 311. This legislation is an important step in curbing the growing use of commercial cheating services that undermine the integrity of education, professional certification, and licensure systems. These services pose significant risks to consumers, employers, and the public by enabling individuals to obtain academic credit, certifications, or credentials without demonstrating the requisite knowledge or competencies.

Maintaining the integrity of assessments used to award academic credit, certifications, and professional licenses is essential to protecting the public. Commercial cheating services allow individuals to bypass evaluation requirements or fraudulently mask that the individual does not meet the standards. When individuals can submit work product that is not their own or cheat on examination, the reliability of credentials is diminished, reducing confidence that any credential holders meet established standards. Businesses that market these cheating services enable unqualified individuals to use credentials they have not properly earned to hold themselves out as qualified. In addition, the prevalence of such services has a corrosive effect on trust in credentials.

SB 311 addresses modern educational and credentialing environments, including professional certification and licensure exams, while remaining narrowly focused on the businesses engaging in and marketing deceptive and exploitative practices. The bill targets deceptive and exploitative conduct while preserving the ability of learners to receive legitimate tutoring, research assistance, and other support expressly permitted by a sponsoring organization. This careful approach ensures that the bill protects assessment integrity without interfering with lawful educational services.

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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. Our 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.

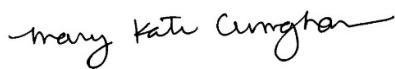
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This legislation directly affects protections for the public. Commercial cheating services – some of which have been emboldened and have exploited generative AI technologies – need to be curbed. If commercial cheating services are allowed to continue operating without meaningful accountability, public trust in certified professionals and credentialing bodies will be significantly undermined, particularly in professions where certification signals competence, ethical practice, and readiness to serve the public.

Thank you for your consideration of the PCC’s support for SB 311. Please feel free to contact us using the information below to discuss this further.

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  
Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)  
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  
Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)  
American Board of Nursing  
Specialties (ABNS)  
American Medical Certification  
Association (AMCA)  
American Nurses Credentialing  
Center (ANCC)  
American Payroll Association  
(APA)  
American Registry of  
Radiologic Technologists  
(ARRT)  
American Society of  
Association Executives (ASAE)  
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 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)  
Chartered Financial Analyst  
Institute (CFA Institute)  
Commission for Case Manager  
Certification (CCMC)  
Community Association  
Institute (CAI)  
Competency & Credentialing  
Institute (CCI)

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)  
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>)  
Irrigation Association  
IT Certification Council (ITCC)  
Laborers' International Union of  
North America Training &  
Education Fund (LIUNA)  
Medical-Surgical Nursing  
Certification Board (MSNCB)  
NALA – The Paralegal  
Association

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 Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM)

National Certification Corporation (NCC)

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

National Restaurant Association (NRA)

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)

Pearson Vue

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)

Project Management Institute (PMI)

PSI Services

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)

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)

*Last updated February 13, 2026*