



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION COALITION

Notes

PCC Member Strategy Call Wednesday, May 27, 2026 1:00 pm ET

Steering Committee: I.C.E. (Denise Roosendaal), ASAE (Kyle Hayes)

Legal Counsel: Jerry Jacobs, Craig Saperstein, Julia Judish, Laura Killalea (Pillsbury)

1. Welcome/Membership Updates

- a. This is the final PCC member meeting for the current fiscal year.
- b. Our next Member Strategy call is scheduled for July 16, 2026.
- c. The PCC published and shared its first quarterly report for members, which was created in response to feedback received during the March in-person meeting. Members are encouraged to provide feedback. We will provide a report on the PCC's accomplishments for this fiscal year and a prospectus for the upcoming fiscal year over the coming weeks.

2. Guest Speaker: Josh Atkinson, PM-ProLearn

a. About Mr. Atkinson

- i. Mr. Atkinson is co-founder and chief strategy officer for PM-ProLearn, an authorized training provider for the Project Management Professional credential. He served 13 years in the Marine Corps and has a unique and valuable perspective on the value of professional credentialing for military servicemembers and veterans.
- ii. Mr. Atkinson contacted the PCC to express his enthusiasm for our work on the Freedom to Invest bill, and now he is working alongside the PCC to improve credentialing assistance provided to servicemembers by the Department of Defense.

b. Advocacy for an Improved DoD Credential Assistance Program

- i. As many PCC members are aware, federal law authorizes each military branch to provide financial aid, known as credentialing assistance (CA), to help military servicemembers access high quality training and credentialing programs
- ii. While well-intentioned, the program is administered inconsistently across military branches and, in many cases, servicemembers are unaware of program benefits.
- iii. Across the branches, there are different standards governing eligible credentials and training programs, different funding levels, and no standard cost controls
- iv. The PCC has developed legislative language that would direct the Department of Defense to harmonize the CA program with respect to benefit amounts, eligibility, and standards of quality. The language utilizes similar concepts and terminology to the PCC-drafted Freedom to Invest bill. .
- v. Mr. Atkinson is partnering with the PCC in many of our conversations with Capitol Hill to build support for this legislation.

- vi. Our most promising vehicle is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While the proposed language was not included in the initial House version of the NDAA, discussions continue with both House and Senate offices regarding potential amendments and future opportunities.

3. Federal Legislative Activity

a. Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act Implementation

- i. The PCC continues to engage the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service regarding implementation of the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act.
- ii. Outreach to date includes: (i) submission of a proposed guidance document intended to clarify the types of professional credentials eligible for qualified 529 plan distributions; (ii) a letter to Treasury and the IRS; and (iii) an in-person meeting with the IRS.
- iii. Congressman Wittman's office has also reached out to Treasury and they will continue to engage the Department on implementation efforts.
- iv. Additional stakeholders, including state 529 plan administrators, private-sector financial services organizations, and the College Savings Foundation, are expected to send a joint letter to Treasury calling for rapid and meaningful guidance on 529 expansion. We have been in frequent contact with these stakeholders. We will report back on this effort.

b. Federal Student Loan Regulations

- i. On April 30, 2026, the Department of Education released [final regulations](#) implementing loan limits created by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- ii. On May 19, 2026, a coalition of twenty-five state attorneys general [filed a lawsuit](#) challenging the final rule under the Administrative Procedure Act. The lawsuit argues that the Department unlawfully narrowed the definition of "professional degrees," by providing an exclusive list of eligible degrees and excluding critical healthcare fields (like nursing) from higher borrowing limits.
- iii. The new student loan rules take effect on July 1, 2026.
- iv. The PCC will continue monitoring both the litigation and any related legislative developments.

4. State Legislative Activity

- a. Many state legislative sessions have concluded, significantly reducing the number of active bills under PCC monitoring.
- b. Of the 47 bills tracked during the 2026 legislative session, six have been enacted.
- c. Just one high-priority bill, the Utah First Amendment bill discussed during the March in-person meeting, was enacted this session.
- d. Two high-priority bills remain pending:
 - i. MA S 198 (Returning Citizens)
 - ii. NJ A 4208 (Miscellaneous)
- e. The PCC continues to monitor these measures and engage with state legislators.

5. Conclusion