



QUARTERLY REPORT - Q1 2026

PCC ACTIVITY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Legislative Activity

The PCC is monitoring **42 bills in 17 states**, including 9 identified as high priority bills. To date, the PCC has sent **24 letters** to state legislators and committees addressing those high priority bills.

Other Engagement & Activity

The PCC continued supporting efforts of the Credential Integrity Action Alliance (CIAA), whose model legislation to combat commercial cheating has been introduced in 2 states.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

This quarter, the PCC engaged in advocacy focused on implementation of the July 2025 expansion of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code to add “qualified postsecondary credentialing expenses” and related credentialing policies, a legislative campaign that the PCC spearheaded. Engagement included written communications and an in-person meeting with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as well as continued coordination with congressional offices and external stakeholders to support clear, timely interim guidance from the IRS regarding implementation.

529 EXPANSION IMPLEMENTATION

- Secured early engagement with the Department of Treasury, positioning the PCC as a key stakeholder in implementation, building off our role in leading the campaign to enact the 529 expansion into law.
- Initiated ongoing dialogue with congressional sponsors.
- Coordinated with external stakeholders, including the 529 plan community and state treasurers’ offices.
- Elevated the need for clear interim guidance by the IRS that would identify additional high quality eligible credentialing programs beyond those specifically defined in statute.

Credentialing & Training for Military Servicemembers



Advanced discussions to expand access to credentialing opportunities for servicemembers.



Monitored federal proposals impacting military education and credentialing access.



Engaged lawmakers on the importance of certification in workforce readiness, including submitting requests for inclusion of draft legislative language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

HIGH PRIORITY BILL SPOTLIGHT

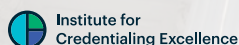
New Jersey Assembly Bill 4208

This bill would allow an individual who is denied a professional license or certification, and who claims that the denial is the result of a policy or process that causes a disparate impact on the issuance of a license or certification on the basis of race or ethnicity, to file a complaint or civil action challenging the policy or process. The PCC has proposed an amendment to the bill to ensure that the bill does not apply to decisions of private certification organizations or require change to any requirement for private certification in any licensing qualification laws.

Status: Referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee (2/19/2026).

PCC MEMBER DISCUSSIONS AND CONNECTION

The PCC hosted Member Strategy Calls on January 28, March 4, and April 28, featuring guest speakers who discussed the impact of Supreme Court jurisprudence on Executive Branch policymaking, including its effects on professional certification, military credentialing, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program. PCC members also gathered in person on March 26, 2026, for our annual convening, featuring in-depth discussions of our federal and state priorities, a guest speaker presentation on antitrust developments affecting the certification community, a member panel discussion on strategies for addressing pipeline challenges, and break-out discussions of future PCC priorities, as well as networking and connection.



The PCC addresses public policy that impacts certifications developed and/or offered by non-governmental organizations, educates stakeholders about the benefits of certification and advances policies to develop the workforce. The Institute for Credentialing Excellence, the American Society of Association Executives and the Pillsbury law firm founded the PCC in 2018.

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