July 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Professional Certification Coalition Support for Skills Renewal Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes to express our strong support for S. 3779/H.R. 7032, the Skills Renewal Act, and encourages Congress to include the legislation, with amendments as described below, in the next round of COVID-19 relief legislation. The legislation would provide a tax credit to individuals whose employment has been impacted by the current pandemic to enable them to pursue training and certification opportunities to advance their careers or to qualify them for new job opportunities.

The PCC supports the objectives of the legislation. As we have conveyed to the bill sponsors, the PCC believes those objectives can be more fully met by expanding permissible uses of the tax credit to cover not only training programs, but also costs associated with taking professional certification examinations that serve as recognized credentials for the skills and competencies gained through that
training. Specifically, we propose amending the legislation to ensure that the tax credit would apply to a broader range of expenses:

- **The bill should permit individuals to use the tax credit to cover expenses associated with a course or program of study that fulfills the prerequisites to qualify the individual to obtain a reputable professional certification or other postsecondary credential.** As currently drafted, the tax credit would only cover expenses associated with: (1) training programs identified on workforce training program lists maintained by states under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or (2) training programs in the computing and STEM fields that would be precertified by the U.S. Department of Labor under the bill. Our proposed amendments would allow the Secretary of Labor to precertify other training programs to prepare individuals to earn certifications or other recognized postsecondary credentials. Given the high levels of job disruptions and unemployment caused by the pandemic, individuals should be encouraged to retrain or enhance their credentials for any occupation in which there may be more openings, even if not deemed “high-need,” and the Secretary of Labor should be authorized to precertify those training programs.

- **The bill should permit the tax credit to cover expenses associated with preparing for and taking an examination or other assessment that certification programs require to obtain a credential.** The legislation, as introduced, covers only expenses associated with training programs, but not certification examinations or other assessments that may be prerequisites to obtaining (and, in some cases, maintaining) credentials that demonstrate to employers that the individual has the competencies and knowledge to meet established standards in the occupation. Our amendments would allow individuals to use the tax credit to offset both preparatory training expenses and the costs associated with taking an examination or assessment developed or administered by an organization widely recognized as providing reputable credentials in a particular occupation – which, most often, is a different and independent entity from the organizations offering training programs.

With these amendments, the Skills Renewal Act would provide an important opportunity to people who have lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are eager to obtain a valuable credential that will help them to advance in their careers or make them marketable for a position in a new occupation. We urge Members of Congress and senators to cosponsor this important, bipartisan legislation and to include it as part of the next COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress.

Many thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to contact Craig Saperstein, counsel to the PCC, at info@profcertcoalition.org or (202) 663-8000, if you would like to further information on the PCC’s support for the bill.

**Signatories listed below carbon copy line**
CC:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Honorable Richard Neal</td>
<td>United States House of Reps.</td>
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<td>The Honorable Charles Grassley</td>
<td>United States Senate</td>
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<td>The Honorable Bobby Scott</td>
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<td>The Honorable Lamar Alexander</td>
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<td>The Honorable Cory Booker</td>
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<td>The Honorable Derek Kilmer</td>
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<td>The Honorable Terri Sewell</td>
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<td>The Honorable Tim Scott</td>
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<td>The Honorable Susan Brooks</td>
<td>United States House of Reps.</td>
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Signatories

ABRET Neurodiagnostic Credentialing & Accreditation (ABRET)
ABS International: the Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity (ABSA)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP)
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nurses (AAPACN)
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM)
American Association of Professional Landmen
American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABCOP)
American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN)
American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)
American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (ABPLM)
American Board of Wound Management (ABWM)
American Chemical Society (ACS)
American Chemical Society of Professional Landmen
American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)
American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)
American College of Healthcare Information Management (ACHI)
American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA)
American College of Radiology (ACR)
American Dental Association (ADA)
American Dietetic Association (ADA)
American English Language Institute (AELI)
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Forensic Anthropology Society (AFAS)
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
American Institute of Certified Lobbyists (AIICL)
American Institute of Credit (AIC)
American Institute of Dental Laboratory Technology (AIDL)
American Institute of Hypnosis (AIH)
American Institute of Medical Assistance (AIMA)
American Institute of Medical Professions (AIMP)
American Institute of Medical Professions and Allied Health Education (AIMP-AH)
American Marketing Association (AMA)
American Medical Association (AMA)
American Medicalriter and Editors (AMR)
American Medical Technologist Association (AMTA)
American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
American Payroll Association (APA)
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Society for Clinical Pathology of Board Certification
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
American Society for Clinical Pathology of Board Certification
American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)
American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)
American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)
American Society of Radiologists (ASR)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)
American Translators Association (ATA)
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
APICS (formerly the American Production and Inventory Control Society)
Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education (AFCPE)
Association for Financial Professionals (AFP)
Association of Surgical Technologists (AST)
Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)
Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI)
Board of Certification of Nutrition Specialists (BCNS)
Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)
Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)
Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS)
Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB)
CCIM Institute (issues the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation)
CFA Institute
Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT)
Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC)
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP)
Certified Fund Raising Executive International (CFRE)
American Chemical Society (ACS)
American Dental Association (ADA)
American Dietetic Association (ADA)
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APICS (formerly the American Production and Inventory Control Society)
Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education (AFCPE)
Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)
Inteleos (includes the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) and the Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement (APCA))
Irrigation Association
International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM)
International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
International Coach Federation (ICF)
International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE)
International Society of Automation (ISA)
Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)
International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC²)
IT Certification Council (ITCC)
Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)
National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA)
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)
National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)
National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA)
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)
National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)
National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)
National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE)
National Certification Corporation (NCC)
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)
National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
National Restaurant Association (NRA)
National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)
PSI Services
Pearson Vue
QualityPro
School Nutrition Association (SNA)
SeaCrest Consulting
Security Industry Association
Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)
Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB)
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)
Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)