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August 6, 2019

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S.379, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit amounts paid for programs to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or a license to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of a 529 account

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) is writing to express our support for S.379 and to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to consider the legislation as expeditiously as possible. S. 379 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit beneficiaries to use funds in 529 plans for expenses associated with obtaining postsecondary credentials, including professional certifications and certificates.

We also encourage the Committee to expand the introduced version of S.379 to also include expenses necessary to obtain or maintain certification or licensure credentials that are separate from preparatory educational and training programs.

Additionally, we support expanding the bill's definition of "program" to include programs that meet the training or educational prerequisites to qualify an individual to take an examination developed or administered by an organization that issues a certification or certificate that is widely recognized in the industry, where such examination is required to obtain or maintain a recognized postsecondary credential. The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) recently submitted a letter of support for this legislation and included proposed amendments that expand the language to include this broader range of expenses (attachment). The IIA is a member of the PCC and we fully support these amendments.

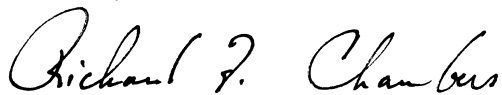
As the global leader, chief advocate and standard-setting body for the practice of internal audit in the United States and worldwide, The IIA is dedicated to supporting quality, professional and ethical practices across all industries and public enterprises. The Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) is the only globally accepted certification for internal auditors, demonstrating their

professionalism, proficiency, and credibility in internal auditing. To earn a CIA, candidates must meet strict eligibility requirements for education, character, and work experience as established by The IIA's Professional Certification Board. In addition, certification holders agree to adhere to an established Code of Ethics and must complete 40 hours of continuing professional education annually to maintain their certification. The CIA exam is offered in 18 languages, including English, and more than 150,000 individuals have been certified since its release. The IIA creates and updates the CIA examination blueprint through a Job Analysis Study every five years in order to gain a better understanding of the current practices of internal auditing. Study results drive updates to the CIA exam syllabus and ensure the knowledge and skills most relevant to current practices of internal auditing.

The IIA and the PCC will continue to advocate in support of S.379 and encourages you and your colleagues in Congress to support this effort.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or The IIA, please feel free to contact Kathy Anderson, Managing Director of North American Advocacy, at kathy.anderson@theiia.org or 407-937-1291.

Sincerely,



Richard F. Chambers, CIA, QIAL, CGAP, CCSA, CRMA
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: July 31, 2019 letter from the Professional Certification Coalition

cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Joe Manchin