

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS



Friday, February 7, 2025

Re: SB797 – A Bill relating to public accountancy; creating new provisions.

We are writing to express our support for the revisions proposed in this bill, which makes changes to Oregon's Public Accountancy Act.

The national landscape of the CPA profession is changing rapidly. A shortage of new talent entering the profession is creating an increasing **public interest concern**, due to the fact that:

- Most existing CPA firms are at capacity
- It is extremely difficult for the public to obtain services when needed
- There is undo pressure on small firms struggling to keep up with the demand

In response to this need, many states, including Oregon, are looking for solutions to this issue. We believe this Bill would improve the current state of the accounting profession by:

- **Reducing barriers** to entry through increased pathways to licensure
- **Increasing the employment opportunities** for those who have left the profession and wish to return.
- **Protecting Oregon practitioners** by adding flexibility to the Mobility and Substantial Equivalency rules
- Increasing employee retention **opportunities for Oregon employers** by allowing for an ESOP ownership structure of accounting firms.

We appreciate the thoughtful consideration the Board of Accountancy has put into these critical issues and believe their proposed changes would yield meaningful improvements.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Robertson - President