

Testimony:

I have been licensed by the Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners since 1979. The whole purpose of the tax board is to protect the public. To make sure that the tax practitioners are educated, trained and tested in tax laws so we can correctly and properly prepare a tax return for the clients. In order to do this we must have rules.

When this proposal was initiated in September 2023 I was appointed as one of the Oregon Society of Tax Consultant Committee members for this proposal. In our initial meeting on 11/14/2023 we outlined qualifications and special rules that included establishing specific written guidelines obligating the supervising Licensed Tax Consultant to follow in proper training and supervision of the Certified Tax Aide. Since that time, I have received copies of the April 25, 2024 proposal signed by the OBTP Executive Supervisor, the OBTP Board Chair, the President of the Oregon Society of Tax Consultants, and the President of the Oregon Association of Tax Consultants. The OAIA was asked to attend the meetings and declined. Now they are coming in at the last minute making changes which was all discussed in several meetings we had. I do NOT agree with the changes they are proposing. I firmly think we need the education requirement, testing requirements. Eliminating any education and testing requirements would compromise our current licensing laws.

Oregon has the strongest Tax Preparation licensing laws of all the states. Let us keep it this way and not have uneducated and untested people preparing tax returns.

I have been in the tax preparation business for 46 years and I am a firm believer in our licensing laws. I will support HB 2338 in the **original submission format only**. I do **not** believe in the changes that are being proposed.

Sincerely,

Colleen Barbee LTC 4399