

Madillyn (Maddy) Gairan, EA/LTC

Bayview Accounting & Tax Service

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Feb. 24, 2025

Dear Oregon Legislatures:

My name is Madillyn Gairan, Enrolled Agent and Oregon Licensed Tax Consultant in the city of North Bend, OR since January 1992.

I want to disagree with the proposed legislation on the HB 2338 – The Certified Tax Aide (CTA) Bill partially.

The part I disagree with is the requirement for the testing and required 40 hours of education, unless they can get that education at a college and not through H & R Block classes. I also disagree with the name as CTA. I propose that you change it to “Registered Tax Aide” instead.

I live in a small community in Coos County, Oregon. We have had 4 colleagues already retire at the end of year 2024 and now there are several hundreds more citizens in our county looking for someone to prepare their income taxes and provide payroll and accounting services for these small businesses.

It has been extremely difficult to find any qualified employees in our area to work for me to be able to provide a good service for any more clients in my office. I work alone in my office to prepare tax returns, do payroll and accounting.

I cannot even find a qualified, experienced secretary to do filing, scanning and answer phones and schedule appointments. It has been exasperating to say the least. No one knows how to multi-task anymore. It is very frustrating for small tax practices to find anyone to hire for seasonal, part time jobs.

I have been unsuccessful to find any competent tax preparers in our area as well. I would like to work with college students that have at least attended tax preparation courses in college, however, our local college no longer offers that course for the Associate Accounting degree. This is very discouraging to those of us, who actually took those classes at Southwestern Oregon Community College over 30 years ago.

It has been a good second career for me. I wish more people were interested in preparing taxes, but it is not an easy task to find them. It would be wonderful if you could give us the ability to train them ourselves and have the ability to give them experience to help them see what our career entails before they waste their time taking 40 or 80 hours of class time and set for a test that they may find they don't even want to commit to. Please make changes to the HB-2338 to delete the hours and test requirement for the CTA as proposed in the bill and allow Enrolled Agents to train them.

Then after their simple training for 2 years, they can go for the 80 hour classes and take the Licensed Tax Preparer test after they have had training from a Federally Licensed Enrolled Agent or Oregon Licensed Tax Consultant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madillyn (Maddy) Gairan, EA/LTC