

Submitter: Laura Kahler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2338

Written Testimony on HB2338: Creating a New Tax Professional Certification (Certified Tax Aid - CTA)

To the Esteemed Members of the Legislative Committee,

My name is [Your Name], and I am an Area Manager and Licensed Tax Preparer with over 14 years of experience in the industry. Since obtaining my license in 2009, I have had the privilege of overseeing five tax offices that span a distance of 166 miles end-to-end. My responsibilities encompass a wide range of duties, including assisting with data entry, requesting necessary documents, organizing the tax return documents clients bring in, and providing overall support to ensure the smooth operation of our offices.

I am writing today in strong support of HB2338, which seeks to create a new certification for tax professionals, known as the Certified Tax Aid (CTA).

The introduction of the CTA certification is a critical step towards addressing a growing concern within our industry: the aging workforce. Many seasoned tax professionals are approaching retirement, and we are not seeing enough new talent entering this well-compensated and vital profession. This shortage poses a significant risk to the continuity and quality of tax preparation services that individuals and businesses rely on.

The CTA certification will serve as an excellent entry point for aspiring tax professionals. It will provide them with a structured and recognized pathway to gain the necessary skills and knowledge, thereby ensuring that they are well-prepared to meet the demands of the job. Additionally, this certification can help attract younger individuals and career changers who may be interested in joining our profession but are uncertain about how to begin.

By supporting HB2338, we are not only investing in the future of our industry but also ensuring that taxpayers continue to receive accurate and reliable services. The Certified Tax Aid designation will uphold the high standards and professionalism that clients expect and deserve.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Kahler
Area Manager and Licensed Tax Preparer
Florence, Oregon