



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Board of Accountancy**

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**Before the  
Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
March 9, 2015  
SB 581**

**Testimony of Larry L. Brown, CPA  
Chair, Board of Accountancy**

Chair Sen. Beyer, Vice-Chair Senator Girod, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Larry Brown. I have practiced as a CPA since 1978, initially with Coopers & Lybrand and later with PricewaterhouseCoopers, where I retired as partner in 2005. I then stayed in active practice performing a wide variety of consulting services, and continued my involvement with the Board of Accountancy as a member of the Board's Complaints' Committee (BOACC). After serving on BOACC for six years through 2010, the following year I was appointed and confirmed as a member of the Board of Accountancy, where I have been privileged to serve since January 1, 2012. I have stayed closely involved with BOACC as Board liaison to BOACC until January 2015, when I became Chair of the Board.

Based on my near decade of involvement with the Board and its complaints process, I would like to echo and formally support the prior testimony of the Oregon Society of CPAs (OSCPA). SB 581 is simply critical to sustaining future Board operations, and especially for maintaining ability to credibly enforce professional standards and ethics. We strive to be fair and efficient in our processes. We only take cases into an expensive contested case process when we absolutely must to ensure a public protection outcome. In most cases where the Board finds one or more violations we are able to resolve them without an expensive contested case process and still ensure that we protect the public and provide a fair process for the licensee.

Please allow me this opportunity to publicly thank the Legislature for allowing this Board last September to increase its expenditure limitation for this biennium primarily to deal with a critical and very litigious case that we were ultimately able to resolve in a last minute settlement during trial with a revocation of the individuals license. Having said that, that case was an exception and not reflective of our prevailing ability to resolve matters without such a level of expense.

As indicated in prior testimony by OSCPAs, we are in a fiscal situation where we must act. The main revenue source of the Board, its individual active licensure 2-year renewal fee, has been at the \$150/\$160 level since the year 2000. In November 2014, current Board Vice Chair Scott Wright, a CPA and Managing Partner at Kernutt Stokes LLP, assisted by the Director of the Board, Mr. Martin Pittioni, entered into negotiations with OSCPAs and the Oregon Association of Independent Accountants (OAIA), for the fee increase proposal before you. These negotiations yielded a consensus reflected in the fee increases described in the OSCPAs testimony.

OSCPAs deserves a lot of credit for leading this bill. It reflects a consensus of the profession, Board and the Governor's Office for this necessary fee increase. I respectfully urge your support.

