

Catherine Weesner, Written Statement

RE: Statements In Opposition of the Enrolled Agent Parity

Proposal: SB 1510 A

Before the House Committee on Revenue

Monday, March 2, 2026

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Weesner. I am a long-time Oregon licensee, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB 1510 A.

I began preparing taxes in 1991, and over the past 35 years I have worked with thousands of Oregon taxpayers. During that time, I have repeatedly seen the consequences when Oregon returns are completed by individuals who do not understand our state's tax structure. Some of the most costly issues I have helped correct were created by out-of-state practitioners including Enrolled Agents, who are highly competent federally but unfamiliar with Oregon's unique rules. When those mistakes occur, it is the taxpayer who pays the price in penalties, interest, and long delays.

Oregon created the Board of Tax Practitioners for a reason: to ensure that anyone preparing personal income tax returns for a fee has verifiable, Oregon-specific knowledge. That standard has served taxpayers well for decades. The existing structure already recognizes the federal expertise of Enrolled Agents by providing a reduced Oregon examination tailored to their role. Maintaining this Oregon component is not an undue burden. It is basic consumer protection.

SB 1510 A, as amended, would dismantle much of that framework. The bill removes Oregon-specific testing for EAs, eliminates continuing education requirements related to Oregon law, and opens the door for unlicensed individuals to prepare returns under the supervision of an EA with minimal oversight. These changes go far beyond "parity." They weaken the state's ability to ensure basic competency and undermine the intent of the Registered Tax Aide program created in 2025 to offer an entry pathway without sacrificing standards.

Tax preparation errors do not become less harmful simply because they are made under the umbrella of a federal credential. Oregon's tax system has its own requirements, definitions, and credits. If we stop requiring practitioners to demonstrate state-level competence, we remove the safeguards that have protected Oregon taxpayers for decades.

I humbly urge the committee to reconsider the direction of SB 1510 A. Oregon should continue its legacy of public protection and commitment to a licensing system that prioritizes accuracy, accountability, and the well-being of Oregon taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.