

Submitter: Tara Hendrickson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1510

Chair Anthony Broadman, Vice Chair Mike McLane, and members of the committee: I submit my testimony in support of the 1510-2 amendment. I am a Washington State tax professional and have been preparing tax returns since 2000. I have owned my own firm in WA state since 2006 and am a member in good standing of the National Association of Enrolled Agents, the Washington State Society of Enrolled Agents, the California State Society of Enrolled Agents, and the National Association of Tax Professionals. As an Enrolled Agent I am well versed in tax and representation. Last year I did obtain and pass the test for licensure within your state. I can tell you the test did nothing to prepare me for anything specific to Oregon. I did not study. I simply took the test and passed. This is because many rules in Oregon conform to federal and the ones that do not are easily looked up. It was extremely difficult to find a testing facility. The web sites for the state information on licensing and signing up for the test have conflicting and confusing information. All this did was cost me time and money and served no purpose towards protecting clients in anyway. There will always be bad actors, even among licensed practitioners. At least Enrolled Agents are required to take tax-specific education and ethics every single year. Alternatively, CPA's who do not fall under the same licensing requirements in your laws as they stand, do not have to have any tax specific education in order to maintain their status. At the very least, as tax-specific professionals, Enrolled Agents should have the same privileges as CPA's when it comes to licensing requirements within your state. Your state boards would far better protect your taxpayers by encouraging tax-specific education and ethics to non-EA professionals through out-reach and affordable quality education programs. I believe this would provide results more aligned with your intents. I appreciate you taking the time to hear my testimony today.