

Submitter: Theban Tonnesen EA LTC
On Behalf Of: Advanced Tax Consulting
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1510

This is a massive shift. Right now, I can't hire my 16 hr old son to do tax prep because he's not old enough to get registered. Because I'm not a CPA, but an Enrolled Agent and Licensed Tax Consultant. If I were a CPA then he could help me prepare taxes in a limited and highly supervised capacity. He left high school early at 16 with a GED and is now attending Mt. Hood Community College full time.

With the passage of this bill, since I'm an EA, he could now work for my accounting firm without being a registered tax preparer under my direct supervision. I would have to obtain my CPA license, which I'm eligible to sit for the exam, but since i own my own tax firm I have no one to sign off on my CPA license. Then with a CPA license I could hire my 16 yr old son part-time.

Also what is really cool.. because as an Enrolled Agent I could hire PSU students to work tax prep part time during tax season without requiring the student to be a licensed tax preparer. This removes a major barrier for students.. but more so for Enrolled Agents. They can (hopefully, soon...) go work directly for an Enrolled Agent without the 80 tax course and exam, while they can only currently do this only for CPA firm owners and not Enrolled Agent firm owners.

This gives Enrolled Agents the same rights and privileges as CPAs in Oregon in hiring and supervising employees. The IRS gives Enrolled Agents the same rights and privileges as Attorneys and CPA's before the IRS. Now, with the passage of this bill the Oregon Tax Board would extend that same privileges and responsibility to Enrolled Agents here in Oregon.

In summary, this bill will benefit college students by opening up Enrolled Agent tax firm owners as additional employment opportunities to work and learn without passing the 80 hour course and exam, which is currently only an opportunity from CPA firm employers.

This benefits Enrolled Agents additionally as it reduces the burden of reporting Continuing Professional Education already required by the IRS and expands the pool of potential employees to no-registered tax return preparers... many of whom I hope to employ from the local Portland State University. It is already very difficult to hire accounting help in taxation in Oregon because of the licensing requirement for employees of EA's and LTC's that is not required of CPA firm owners. This would give Enrolled Agents an equal advantage in the hiring pool as CPA firms. Currently Enrolled Agents can only hire licensed Tax Preparers or Tax Aids, while CPA firms do not.

I support the passage of this bill and hope to offer educational opportunities of employment to accounting students at Portland State University, and other institutions here in Oregon

Sincerely,

Theban L Tonnesen, EA, LTC