

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 442 – TO AMEND SECTIONS 4701.06 AND
4701.17 OF THE REVISED CODE TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT CERTIFICATE**

I would like to thank Committee Chair McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and the rest of the Committee members for providing me this opportunity to express my views on HB 442. My name is Colleen Goetz and I am a former student of Ohio University. I finished my bachelor's degree in Accounting in my first three years of school and then my Master of Accountancy (MAcc) degree in my fourth year to achieve the necessary 150 credit hours to sit for the CPA exam (finishing in May 2020). I subsequently took and passed all four parts of the exam between June and November of this year.

I would like to share my experience and the experience of one of my peers taking the CPA exam. I pursued a MAcc in order to fulfill our 150 credit-hour requirement. I genuinely believe that waiting until I completed all 150 credits to take the CPA exam led to me passing all four parts on my first try. For example, I would not have passed the Regulation section with as much confidence if I did not take a tax research course during my Master's program. Not only did the content of the courses aid in my success, but I further learned how to study. The CPA exam is entirely self-paced and I was the only one holding myself accountable to my study schedule every day. I was able to set a firm study schedule and stick to it because of the additional education and graduation from college life.

One of my former classmates is currently taking the exam in another state while finishing her Master of Accountancy degree. By doing so, she has needed to continually reschedule her exam and has even failed one of the sections she has taken. She further said that if she could do it over, she would have delayed her full-time job offer rather than trying to take the CPA exam while finishing her degree. By attempting to balance both the CPA exam and schoolwork, she has wasted precious time and money.

Overall, I believe that allowing students to take the exam before completing the required 150 hours will lead to students being trapped and losing both money and time. Each exam costs around \$300 to take and this adds up quickly when exams are failed or delayed due to the academic and social pressures of school. Not only is a final year of college stressful in regards to classes, but many students glorify their senior year as a chance to have fun before entering into life with a full-time job. Completing 150 credit hours is not difficult with proper planning and advising, and I believe that requiring students to complete all 150 credit hours before taking the exam does not impose additional hardship on candidates.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.