



ACCOUNTANCY BOARD OF OHIO

77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 18TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6128
PHONE: 614.466.4135 FAX: 614.466.2628
WWW.ACC.OHIO.GOV

Mike DeWine, Governor
John E. Patterson, Executive Director

Testimony of Tracey Fithen, Acting Executive Director
Accountancy Board of Ohio
Before the General Government Committee
(Michael A. Rulli, Chair)
Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 3:00 PM, Statehouse, Grant Hearing Room

Chair Rulli and Members of the Committee:

I am Tracey Fithen, and I am currently the Acting Executive Director of the Accountancy Board of Ohio.

Our Board is totally funded by fees from our applicants and licensees. We are self-sustaining and do not spend money from the General Revenue Fund.

The budget provides DAS appropriation authority directly from Fund 4K90 to support the cost of the e licensure system. This will eliminate unnecessary chargebacks to boards and commissions for the cost of eLicense by paying for the proportionate share of costs directly from the fund.

We provide an education assistance scholarship. The number of requests has increased, aside from 2020, over the last five (5) years, asking for assistance to complete the final 30 hours necessary to be licensed as a CPA.

Our Board is a national leader in CPA mobility, making Ohio an attractive State to do business.

Our Board members are active with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). Former board member and Chair, Ted Long, was the 2018 Chair of NASBA, former board member and Chair, Michael Fritz, was the Chair of NASBA in 2022 and last year's board Chair, Kenya Watts, is the current Great Lakes Region Chair for NASBA. Our Executive Director, John Patterson is currently serving as Chair of NASBA's Board of Directors this calendar year.

We are very proud of a strong working relationship with the Ohio Society of CPAs and plan to focus on making that relationship even stronger going forward.

The Accountancy Board provides high level services while having one of the lowest-average licensee fees of any state. We issue approximately 35,000 CPA permits and/or registrations and over 4,000 CPA firm registrations with a staff of 9 people.

In summary, the Accountancy Board is totally funded by fees from our applicants and licensees and are self-sustaining.

We provide a high level of service with low fees. The Accountancy Board respectfully requests our fee funded operations be approved at the levels recommended in the Executive Budget Request.

