



February 12, 2025

Testimony of Donna M. Oklok, Executive Director  
Accountancy Board of Ohio  
Before the House Ways and Means Committee  
(William Roemer, Chair)  
Tuesday, February 12, 2025, 11:30am

Chair Roemer, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of the Committee:

I am Donna Oklok, and I am the Executive Director of the Accountancy Board.

The Accountancy Board is Ohio's regulatory and licensing agency for certified public accountants (CPAs), public accountants (PAs) and public accounting businesses (firms). It is totally funded by fees from our applicants and licensees. We are self-sustaining and spend no money from the general revenue fund. The Board itself consists of nine members and employs nine full-time staff.

The Board provides high level services while having one of the lowest-average licensee fees of any state. It currently oversees nearly 30,000 valid and current CPA/PA licenses and more than 2,400 CPA firm registrations. While the number of newly licensed CPAs remains robust, more than half of the Ohio CPA population is over the age of 50. Retirements and attrition have begun to negatively affect the Board's revenues, and we anticipate that the rate of both will continue to accelerate. The Board has requested this biennium an update to its 1992 licensing statute to allow permit fees to be set by rule. The ability to set incremental license fees will keep the Board's operational revenue at current levels while protecting its ongoing fiscal health.

Ohio's CPAs support an education fund for workforce development and to support students who want to become CPAs. The Board administers this fund through a licensing surcharge, which has been used to fund millions of dollars in scholarships, exam prep courses, and accounting career programs at all education levels.

Ohio remains a national leader in CPA mobility, making it an attractive state to do business.

Current and past Board members are active with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). Former Board Chair, Michael Fritz, was the Chair of NASBA in 2022 and former Board Chairs Kenya Watts and Gerald Weinstein serve as NASBA Directors-at-Large. Several current Accountancy Board members sit on NASBA committees and on joint committees of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Both Board members and Board staff work closely with stakeholders to ensure Ohio CPAs and business interests are well-represented regionally and nationally.



Finally, we are proud of our strong working relationship with the Ohio Society of CPAs and will continue to make that relationship even stronger.

In summary, the Board maintains its operations from its own funds, and it respectfully asks that the biennial budget be approved at the requested levels.