

**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 Juliet Polisen 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). This past weekend, I took my fourth and final part of the CPA Exam (BEC) and am awaiting those results. I successfully took and passed the other three parts of the exam on my first attempt from June to October this year.

Going into college, my plan to achieve 150 credit hours was to be a triple major in Accounting, Finance, and Business Pre-Law. I also planned to utilize summer courses, study abroad, and internship credits. However, after my first year, I discovered I would still not be able to receive my 150 credit hours with all of the additional activities I was undertaking. I was very lost looking for a meaningful way to achieve those extra credit hours. After two years, it was pointed out that I could graduate a year early due to being ahead with completing my bachelor's degree requirements. That is when I decided to enter the Master of Accountancy program in my fourth and final year at Ohio University.

The Master of Accountancy program allowed me to reach 150 credit hours in a way that no other classes would have been able to do. Through educated discussions and more technical information, I believe I achieved a leg up on other students when it came to taking the CPA exam. The Regulation part of the Exam was my most challenging section as tax does not come easy to me. I believe the only reason I passed this section of the exam was because of the Tax Research class in my MAcc program. This class allowed me to understand the tax code in a new way and effectively use the Authoritative Literature. Additionally, within the Business part of the Exam, there was a writing component that was worth 15%. My graduate classes taught me how to write in a professional and concise manner that was essential in this section. Those skills would have been lost potential without my graduate classes.

If I had the option to sit for the CPA exam after three years (when I was at 120 credit hours), I do not think I would have had the success I did. I would have missed the valuable information and lessons I learned in those additional 30 credit hours. I also would have still been in college and I am not confident that I would be able to stick to my rigorous study schedule. You are only given 18 months to complete all four parts of the exam from the moment you pass the first one. If I had passed my first part while still in college, the 18-month clock would have started and I likely would not have passed the remaining three parts in that window, wasting very valuable time. I

believe that starting to sit at 120 credit hours will leave CPA candidates unprepared and stuck. It will lead to students failing exams in college or trying to balance new jobs, studying for the exam, and now classes as well.

Achieving the 150 credit hours before the CPA exam was attainable and incredibly helpful for me. Thank you for your time and I hope you consider the impact this potential change will have on thousands of students.