



The Honorable Leland Yee, Ph.D.
California State Senate
State Capitol Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 8, 2009

RE: Support for SB 691(Yee)

Dear Senator Yee:

This letter is written on behalf of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy (FSA) in support of SB 691 which establishes the 150 hour education requirement as the sole path to CPA licensure in California. We strongly support SB 691 and greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide our views.

The Federation of Schools of Accountancy (FSA) is an organization that represents the leadership of 170 college and university accounting programs. Our primary mission is to promote the development of high quality accredited accounting programs, with an emphasis on graduate education.

The current state of the economy provides ample evidence that well-educated Certified Public Accountants are critical to the functioning of our markets. The movement toward requiring 150 hours of college credit to become a CPA began over three decades ago. To date 46 states and the District of Columbia have adopted a 150 hour education requirement for licensure.

We believe that enacting the 150 hour education requirement for CPA licensure in California (SB 691) is critical for the protection of the public welfare and for the competitive health and future of the CPA profession itself. SB 691 will bring the licensing standards of California in line with this national standard, and will ensure that the citizens of California are afforded the same quality of CPA service and protections as citizens in other states. It will also remove barriers to mobility, due to the education requirement gap, that California CPAs often face in representing their clients in other states. The 150 hour educational requirement will also provide CPA candidates an opportunity to acquire additional valuable professional skills and technical knowledge that will enhance the quality of CPA work and better protect the public in the future.

Leaders of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), accounting educators, education accrediting agencies, and many in the accounting profession have endorsed the 150 hour requirement for many years and continue to do so. The attention focused on auditors and CPAs by widely publicized accounting scandals, Sarbanes-Oxley, the formation of the PCAOB, the SEC's Advisory Committee on Improvements to Financial Reporting, and



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The Organization of Accredited Graduate Programs in Accounting

the Treasury Department's Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession (ACAP) clearly suggests increased complexity, globalization, and risks in the accounting and auditing profession, and also evidences that the accounting profession needs stronger educational requirements than the BA level (120 hours) for CPA licensure.

We thank you for sponsoring SB 691 for consideration by the California legislature and are pleased to offer our support. If additional information would be helpful please let us know.

Yours truly,

Casper E. Wiggins
President, The Federation of Schools of Accountancy