



National Association of State Boards of Accountancy

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**David A. Costello, CPA**  
President & CEO

April 1, 2009

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

RE: SB 691 Support

Dear Senator Yee:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) to support SB 691 which legislation when enacted will place California as the 48<sup>th</sup> state and the 51<sup>st</sup> jurisdiction to require 150 hour education program as the sole track for licensure as a certified public accountant (CPA).

NASBA is the membership organization of the 55 boards of accountancy (50 states, Washington D.C., Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands). Our mission is to enhance the effectiveness of our member boards which principally involves and is critical to the public interest. In meeting our expressed purpose, no challenge has been so substantively addressed or so enriching and protective of the public interest than the 150 hour education requirement for licensure as a CPA. Several years ago we joined with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to develop the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) which is a model act for states to study, deliberate and adopt as representing preferred policies and practices to effectively protect the public. A key component of the UAA licensure model is the 150 hour education requirement.

Mobility of CPAs is rapidly becoming a reality in most of our states and jurisdictions and will under the substantial equivalency provisions of state laws constitute the most viable methodology for CPAs to respond to consumer demands and to be subject to reasonable regulation. The 150 hour education requirement is the gateway, along with successful completion of the Uniform CPA Examination and a basic one year experience requirement, for CPAs in California to practice in other states and jurisdictions.

The other 50 states and 47 jurisdictions have addressed the major challenges to the 150 hour education requirement and have determined that the challenges were either not factually based (e.g. reduced enrollments of university students) or were minor compared to the substantial benefits to protecting the public with better educated, better trained, and better prepared students.

I commend you and appreciate your leadership in sponsoring SB 691. In our states and in our country, we are experiencing a crisis of confidence in government and its regulators. With the financial meltdown, the bailouts, and a myriad of confusing "solutions," the public is incensed about the keepers of the trust and the watchdogs over the processes intended to guard against the disasters we've all witnessed and been a part of. Education in our complex financial world is not less important but of much more critical importance for CPAs representing the public interest as they serve trusting and dependent consumers. It is to this purpose of public trust and to understandable expectations of consumers that I encourage you in being steadfast in your pursuit of passing SB 691. If I can be of any assistance in your efforts, I would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Costello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David A. Costello, CPA  
President and Chief Executive Officer