

From: [Evelyna Caldwell](#)
To: [Senate State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#)
Subject: House Bill 121
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 6:04:17 PM

Hello,

I want to send an email expressing my support for House Bill 121. I am a great example of why the 150 credit hour requirement doesn't really provide any additional value to the profession. I had about 130 credits when I graduated from UAA. That included all the accounting classes that UAA requires except 2. The only reason I didn't take the last two upper division classes was because they were only offered once a semester, and it would have forced me to continue to go to school even longer after I had finished everything else. At the time I was already in the workforce and it was hard to juggle school and work at the same time. But since there was a 150 hour education requirement for CPA licensure in Alaska, I had to find a way to get an additional 20 credit hours. So, I took CLEP tests for about 18 of those and took a first aid class and a dog mushing class only because I ran out of classes I could test out of easily. This really felt like a lot of wasted time and effort and money without providing any additional value to me or my life.

Now I have owned my firm for 9.5 years and I am an employer. There are students who are taking 5 years going to school because they have to get these additional 30 credit hours when they could already be working and earning a living. While this may seem easy for someone whose parents paid for their education and housing, but it is a huge barrier for people in poverty. Once they have their bachelors they are very unlikely to have access to grants/scholarships for the additional 30 credit hours. They have no choice but to join the workforce right away. Many of those will just never become CPAs, not because they aren't great accountants or aren't interested in being a CPA but because there are MANY financial barriers to becoming a CPA (exam study materials, testing fees, additional 30 credit hours of education, etc). For students that have the funds available to not jump right into the workforce, I would rather them spend that extra year on studying for and passing the CPA exam instead of taking classes that likely will not provide any additional value to their life or profession.

Lastly, as of today over 30 states have introduced similar legislation to remove the 150 credit hour requirement. If we do not match other states licensure requirements, students from our of state will not be able to come and be a CPA in Alaska. The AEDC has been talking about how to attract talent to Anchorage for YEARS, and one of those is to make it possible for them to come here and continue the career path they are already on. If other states move forward to removing the credit hour requirement and we do not, we will have an even worse labor shortage than we already do in the accounting industry. That is not good for our economy.

I hope you pass house bill 121.

Thanks
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2022 Alaska Young Entrepreneur of the Year

