

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2573  
House Federal and State Affairs Committee

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Submitted by: Darbi Ahlquist  
Associate, Loyd Group, LLC, Certified Public Accountants

Chair Kessler and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 2573. My name is Darbi Kinghorn, and I am an Associate at Loyd Group, LLC, Certified Public Accountants here in Kansas.

I am here today because I believe House Bill 2573 addresses a real and growing barrier within our profession—one that affects not only accounting professionals, but also the businesses, farms, governments, and communities across Kansas that rely on qualified CPAs.

I earned my bachelor's degree in accounting and currently work full-time in public accounting, where my work is focused on auditing. Every day, I gain hands-on experience that strengthens my understanding of the profession and confirms my desire to pursue my CPA license.

However, under current requirements, I would need to return to school and complete two additional classes in order to become CPA eligible.

I am a mother to a young child. My husband is pursuing his PhD, which means our time, financial resources, and flexibility are already stretched thin. Like many young professionals in Kansas, we are balancing careers, education, and family life—and we hope to continue growing our family in the future.

The thought of going back to school is daunting, not because I don't value education, but because of the additional cost, time commitment, and logistical challenges it creates. Tuition, childcare, scheduling, and lost time with my family all factor into that decision. These barriers can delay—or even derail—capable professionals from pursuing CPA licensure altogether.

House Bill 2573 recognizes that hands-on experience matters. I am someone who learns best by doing. The more experience I gain in real-world accounting, the more confident, competent, and committed I become. Practical experience allows me to make deeper connections, exercise professional judgment, and better serve clients—skills that are critical for a CPA.

This bill provides a more realistic and inclusive pathway to licensure while maintaining the integrity and standards of the profession. It does not lower expectations; it modernizes them. It acknowledges that experience in the field can be just as valuable as additional classroom hours, particularly in a profession that is facing workforce shortages.

I want to become a CPA. I want to continue serving Kansas clients while upholding the high professional standards and public trust that the CPA license represents. House Bill 2573 would make that goal more attainable—not just for me, but for many others who are capable, motivated, and ready to step into these roles.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 2573.

Sincerely,

Darbi Ahlquist