



## *California Research Bureau*

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development  
State Capitol, Room 2053  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Negrete McLeod,

Thank you very much for your recent request for the California Research Bureau to assist the committee in understanding the policy options before the Legislature with regard to the pathways through which residents can obtain a license as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Based on consultations with your staff, the California Research Bureau will design and pursue a study with the following components:

- Summary of the points of concern, prior legislative deliberations, and review of the literature relative to those points of concern, including analysis of the impact of licensing changes on entry into the field for CPAs, consumer protections, and impacts on licensees in the education, experience and exam pipeline to the extent there are supporting data.
- Overview of the national discussion regarding the 150-hour rule for licensure, summary of legislative action in other states, and implications of national and state policies and trends for California and the ability of CPAs licensed in California to practice in other states. The overview would include identification of licensing policy and practice models that policymakers could consider, including best practice models to remove barriers to licensing for populations of concern where information is available.
- Identification of strategies that could be used to monitor and report trends in licensing and their impact on communities of concern, including women, persons of color or others.

To pursue this study, the California Research Bureau would convene an advisory committee to enable stakeholders to inform this work. The advisory committee would include representatives from the CPA profession, the California Board of Accountancy, along with stakeholders focused on consumer protection, improved access to the field, and others.

As requested, we will work to deliver this report to your office by November 1, 2009. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this study.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to assist the committee.

Respectfully,

Toby Ewing, Ph.D  
Director