

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF  
ACCOUNTANCY**

Public Hearing on

**B26-494, the “Accountancy Practices Amendment Act of 2025”**

Written Testimony of  
Robert Todero  
Chairman

District of Columbia Board of Accountancy

Before

The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Chairperson  
The Committee on Public Works and Operations  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.  
John A. Wilson Building – Room 123

Good morning, Chairperson Nadeau, members of the Committee on Public Works and Operation, and staff. I am Robert Todero, Chairman of the D.C. Board of Accountancy (Board). I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, along with April Randall, Legislative Director for the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, in support of Bill 26-49, the “Accountancy Practices Amendment Act of 2025”.

I have an extensive background in accounting and auditing. Presently, I am a Partner with KPMG LLP’s Federal Audit Practice Group – a position I have held for 21 years. I have been a licensed CPA for 30 years in Maryland, D.C., and Virginia. I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board since 2010 when I was first appointed by Mayor Fenty.

I want to thank Mayor Muriel Bowser for re-appointing me to the Board in 2024. The Board protects consumers by licensing CPAs and it plays a critical role in responding to consumer complaints and taking enforcement action when appropriate. The Board also helps shape the accounting profession by recommending legislative and regulatory changes to the Mayor, like the one before the Committee today. Throughout my career, I have held several positions but serving on the Board along my fellow Board members is one of the major highlights of my career. Together we have played a vital role in shaping the profession.

In addition to serving on the Board, I am a member of the National Association of State Board of Accountancy (NASBA). Last year, I was elected to the NASBA Board of Directors where I serve as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. In this position, I will have the opportunity to shape the future of the accounting profession on a larger scale.

The profession is at a crossroads. The percentage of licensed CPAs has declined since 2020 while the demand for accountants continues to rise. Between 2024 and 20233, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics estimates that the need for accounting and auditor jobs will

increase by 5%. The gap between the supply and demand for licensed accountants is concerning. Immediate action is needed to address this problem. Bill 26-49 is the answer.

Bill 26-49 would adopt the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA) and NASBA's amendments to the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA). The UAA are model rules that are not binding on states unless adopted in whole or in part. Like the other 55 State Boards of Accountancy, the District follows the UAA. Yet, whenever the UAA is amended, states must adopt the amendments for them to apply in their jurisdiction.

In May 2025, the AICPA and NASBA amended the UAA by adding a third education pathway for those seeking to become a licensed accountant. Under this third pathway, one can obtain a CPA license by completing a baccalaureate degree plus two years of practical experience and passing the CPA exam. Prior to this change, one would have had to:

1. Possess a baccalaureate degree with a concentration in accounting plus thirty additional hours, plus one year experience and pass the CPA exam; or
2. Possess a master's degree, plus one year of experience, and pass the CPA exam.

With rising education costs and stagnant salaries, satisfying the education requirements for many potential applicants is untenable. The AICPA and NASBA seek to address this problem.

In addition to amending the education requirements for licensure, the AICPA and NASBA amended the UAA's mobility requirements. Specifically, the amendment replaces the "substantial equivalent" standard that states had applied with the "individual-based standard." Under the "individual-based" reciprocity requirement, as long as an individual is licensed and in good standing, they can practice in another state. For those who were licensed prior to the change, the UAA amendment includes a "safe harbor" clause.

Since the AICPA and NASBA amended the UAA in May 2025, over 20 states have

adopted the third education pathway to licensure and licensure mobility, including Virginia in 2025. Maryland passed the mobility amendment in 2025, and legislation is pending in Maryland that would result in the state adopting the UAA's alternative pathway. Bill 26-49 would align the District's licensing requirements with the over 20 states that have adopted the UAA amendments. The Council approving this legislation will ensure the District remains competitive with other states, while at the same time providing economic opportunities for District residents. The Board recommends that the Council approve B26-49.

Thank you again, Chairperson Nadeau, for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.