



National Association of State
**Auditors, Comptrollers
and Treasurers**

NASACT

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September 07, 2023

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
U.S. Seante
713 Seante Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: STEM Education in Accounting Act of 2023

Dear Senators Collins and Rosen:

On behalf of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) representing state finance officials nationwide, I am writing to express our strong support for the STEM Education in Accounting Act of 2023. The bill amends the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience. The legislation further recognizes accounting as a STEM field due to the profession's expansive use of technology. We appreciate the recognition of the need to increase the number of students entering the field and applaud efforts to elevate the accounting profession through high-quality accounting courses offered to our next generation of leaders and through inclusion of accounting in the STEM designation.

The most significant challenge state auditors, comptrollers, and treasurers currently face is the recruitment and retention of qualified accountants. With fewer graduates entering and staying in the profession, action is needed to reverse this trend. Since our members oversee, distribute, and audit billions in federal funds each year at the state and local levels, this problem extends beyond our membership to the federal government and U.S. taxpayers as well. Considering the historic federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent legislation, there has never been a greater need for oversight of federal funds.

Accounting is a field that involves a broad base of skills including the use of mathematics, data analysis, technology, and critical thinking skills. Accounting specifically uses technology to manage and analyze big data, ensure data security, and manage cybersecurity risks. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, data analytics, and forensic and predictive accounting are just a few of the ways that accountants use technology. The benefits of designating accounting as a STEM subject could include increasing the level of financial support for high school accounting classes, increased enrollment in accounting programs at colleges and universities, and even increasing the number of study visas issued for some students.

Unfortunately, enrollment in accounting courses at the university level has been steadily decreasing. Educating our young leaders through grade 12 can only help to elevate interest and address the issue. Providing the field with a STEM designation may broaden interest in accounting by students wishing to pursue STEM, which in turn could help address the lack of students entering the field.

We commend you for your leadership in advocating the enactment of this legislation, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage. Please feel free to contact our representative in Washington, Cornelia Chebinou, at cchebinou@nasact.org or (202)989-6801 should you wish to discuss this issue further. Thank you again for your efforts to elevate the importance and value of accounting as a profession worthy of consideration by future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Griffin
State Auditor of Georgia
NASACT President, 2023-24



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September 07, 2023

The Honorable Haley Stevens
U.S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Young Kim
U.S. House of Representatives
1306 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Accounting STEM Pursuit Act of 2023

Dear Representatives Stevens and Kim:

On behalf of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) representing state finance officials nationwide, I am writing to express our strong support for the Accounting STEM Pursuit Act of 2023. The bill amends “the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience.” The legislation further recognizes accounting as a STEM field due to the profession’s expansive use of technology. We appreciate the recognition of the need to increase the number of students entering the field and applaud efforts to elevate the accounting profession through high quality accounting courses offered to our next generation of leaders and through inclusion of accounting in the STEM designation.

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Greg Griffin, State Auditor of Georgia
NASACT President, 2023-24