National Association of State
Auditors, Comptrollers
and Treasurers

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February 24, 2026

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

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

RE: Accounting STEM Pursuit Act

Dear Senators Collins and Rosen:

On behalf of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT), which represents state finance officials nationwide, I write to express our strong support for the Accounting STEM Pursuit Act.

This legislation would amend *Every Student Succeeds Act* to include accounting as part of a well-rounded Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) educational experience. It would also designate accounting as an allowable use of K–12 grant funding. We appreciate the recognition of the need to increase the number of students entering the accounting profession and applaud efforts to elevate the field through high-quality accounting courses for the next generation of leaders, as well as through the inclusion of accounting in the STEM designation.

A significant challenge currently facing state auditors, comptrollers, and treasurers is the recruitment and retention of qualified accountants. Because our members oversee, distribute, and audit hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year at the state and local levels, this issue extends beyond our membership to the federal government and U.S. taxpayers.

Accounting is a field that draws on a broad set of skills, including mathematics, data analysis, technology, and critical thinking. The profession increasingly relies on technology to manage and analyze large datasets, ensure data security, and mitigate cybersecurity risks. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, data analytics, and forensic and predictive accounting are just a few examples of how technology is integral to modern accounting. Designating accounting as a STEM subject could increase financial support for high school accounting programs and boost enrollment in college and university accounting programs.

Although efforts have been made to increase enrollment in accounting courses at the university level, many students still do not consider accounting as a career option. Introducing and strengthening accounting education through grade 12 can help spark early interest and address this challenge. A STEM designation may further broaden interest among students seeking STEM pathways and help increase the number of individuals entering the profession.

We commend your leadership in advocating for the enactment of this legislation and look forward to working with you and your staff to support its passage. Please feel free to contact our Washington representative, Cornelia Chebinou, at cchebinou@nasact.org or (202) 989-6801 if you would like 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,

Steve McCoy

Steve McCoy
President, NASACT
State Treasurer, Georgia