

# Recognizing Accounting as a STEM Profession

***To cosponsor legislation in the House, please contact Kevin Orellana in Rep. Young Kim's office at [Kevin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kevin@mail.house.gov) or Sam Knapke in Rep. Haley Stevens office at [Sam.Knapke2@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sam.Knapke2@mail.house.gov).***

***To cosponsor legislation in the Senate, please contact Allison Feikes in Sen. Susan Collins office at [Allison\\_Feikes@collins.senate.gov](mailto:Allison_Feikes@collins.senate.gov) or Megan Thompson in Sen. Jacky Rosen's office at [megan\\_thompson@rosen.senate.gov](mailto:megan_thompson@rosen.senate.gov).***

## Background

To ensure the profession meets the needs of the public, client, and employer in a technology-driven marketplace, accountants learn and leverage cutting-edge technology skills. Officially recognizing accounting as a STEM subject at all levels of education will signal to the public markets that the accounting profession is ready and qualified to assess the technological world businesses are in today. The profession believes this will also increase student engagement with the accounting profession, which will help to build the CPA pipeline. History shows that early exposure to the accounting profession in high school will increase opportunities for students to understand the limitless possibilities of an accounting career and therefore increase their pursuit of such careers.

## Legislation

The *Accounting STEM Pursuit Act* (H.R. 2911, *pending Senate reintroduction*) would help bolster the argument that accounting is a STEM field by allowing STEM K-12 grant funding to be used for accounting awareness and education. The bill adds “activities to promote the development, implementation, and strengthening of programs to teach accounting” to the list of allowable uses of grant funding under the StudentSupport and Academic Enrichment Grant program (Title IV, part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*). The bill includes a focus on increasing access to high-quality accounting courses for students through grade 12 who are members of groups underrepresented in accounting careers.

Representatives Young Kim (R-CA) and Haley Stevens (D-MI) have reintroduced this legislation in the House, and Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV) have reintroduced the companion bill in the Senate.

## AICPA Position

The profession strongly supports accounting to be recognized as a STEM curriculum under the technology field. Allowing existing STEM K-12 grant funding to be used for accounting awareness and education would help students gain an interest in accounting at an earlier age and learn of the endless opportunities they may find should they pursue a career in accounting.

## AICPA Staff Contact

### Todd Sloves

Director, Congressional & Political Affairs  
(202) 434-9269  
[Todd.Sloves@aicpa-cima.com](mailto:Todd.Sloves@aicpa-cima.com)