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Susan L. Somers, Executive Director

Board of Accountancy

Sam Brownback, Governor

Board of Accountancy Testimony on SB 311

The 2011 legislature favorably approved an increase in our 2012 and 2013 expenditures in the amount of \$25,000 to hire outside legal counsel for disciplinary cases. In August of 2011, we contracted with an attorney to handle those matters.

The Division of Budget and the Governor's recommendations to our 2012 and 2013 budgets are to reduce our professional fees for legal counsel by \$5,000 in each year, in addition to a further reduction of \$1,500 in 2013 for Board travel.

The number of disciplinary cases and the complexity of those cases are the driving force behind our request for an increase in our expenditures. We have and continue to incur higher legal fees due to these cases. In addition, because there has been an increase in the number of disciplinary hearings held, we have increased the number of Board meetings from 7 to 8 a year, causing an slight increase in travel expenditures for Board members.

Our budget is small, and any reduction in expenditures has a large impact on our ability to continue to perform the duties necessary to regulate the CPA profession.

We respectfully request that no expenditure reductions be made to our 2012 and 2013 budgets.

I will be happy to stand for any questions.

Susan L. Somers Executive Director On behalf of the Board