Technology has transformed how Americans work, fundamentally altering the opportunities and responsibilities of certain professions. That has been especially true in the accounting profession, which has been reshaped by technology. Day-to-day, Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) are managing and analyzing big data and data security, and services now require expertise in IT, artificial intelligence, blockchain, analytics, predictive and forensic accounting, and more.

That shift necessitates a change in how the U.S. views accounting. Bipartisan bills before Congress will do just that, recognizing accounting as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education field, establishing the sector as a valuable STEM career pathway. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the nation’s largest member association representing the accounting profession, says this designation will bolster the pipeline of needed and diverse talent into the field, benefit employers across sectors and strengthen U.S. competitiveness in global markets.

It is imperative that Congress enact this legislation and recognize accounting as a part of the STEM curriculum technology field. Here’s why:

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01

**A STRONG ACCOUNTING PIPELINE PROTECTS PUBLIC INTEREST.**

As gatekeepers of the financial markets, CPAs leverage technology to help investors and business leaders navigate complex issues. Recognizing accounting as a STEM field will help ensure future generations of CPAs are highly skilled and prepared to meet the public’s evolving needs.

02

**STEM PROGRAMS BENEFIT U.S. EMPLOYERS AND RECENT GRADUATES.**

Hiring employees from STEM-designated programs can strengthen a company’s technological competitiveness, encourage innovation and improve cultural diversity. International students graduating from STEM-designated programs at U.S. universities qualify for two extra years’ stay in the country — benefitting both employers and international students.
We are calling on Congress to enact legislation recognizing accounting as a STEM field.