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**Kansas**

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**To:** Representative Tarwater and Members of the Commerce Committee

**From:** American Institute of Architects Kansas Chapter

**Re:** HB 2506

**Date:** February 12, 2020

My name is Malcolm Watkins, President, for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Kansas chapter and a Vice President of Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey Architecture, an over 60 year old, 40 person architecture firm headquartered in Wichita. Our organization opposes HB 2506 as written. Overall, this bill serves to undermine the ability of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions (who regulate architects among others) to further protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Our profession designs public institutions, like schools, hospitals, and other publicly used structures. Collectively, we are responsible for the integrity and safety of our public and private spaces. Professional licensing is an important indicator of a baseline level of expertise and qualification that helps protect Kansans from unqualified practitioners.

As this bill is drafted, professional licensing is a right based on a completed application and being licensed in another state even if the applicant does not meet the Kansas qualifications. Any effort to oversee an approval of a license must be factually tied to specific matters in an impossibly short timeframe, none of which could be known without increasing the government agency infrastructure. If public safety is desired, this bill will necessitate more taxpayer funded government positions to investigate and gather data to review the applications and the truthfulness of them.

The bill is directed toward speed rather than the health, safety and welfare of Kansans. The expedited timeline for issuing a license in 10 business days is impossibly short to make a meaningful review of an application, let alone an analysis of all the other jurisdictions' licensing requirements. After the tenth day if an issue has not yet been identified, a temporary license shall be issued. This does not protect Kansans.

In conclusion, this proposal attempts to solve a problem that doesn't exist. An architect who is not yet licensed in Kansas can practice under direct supervision of a licensed architect immediately upon relocation to our state while pursuing their own license. This bill does not create jobs or revenue in Kansas, but rather will add unnecessary financial burden to all members of our profession seeking a license in order for the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions to satisfy the impossibly short deadline requirements of this bill. Under the existing statutes that govern our profession, there are no barriers to a qualified individual moving to Kansas and immediately earning a livelihood.