



**AIA Ohio Testimony presented by Bruce Sekanick, FAIA
House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
March 21, 2023, in support of HB3**

Thank you, Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch and Members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee.

On behalf of the Ohio Society of the American Institute of Architects, I would like to convey strong support for House Bill 3. It is AIA Ohio's belief that this legislation is essential to encourage affordable housing that supports a strong workforce and healthy communities.

AIA Ohio represents over 2,100 members in the architecture profession in Ohio and nearly 6,000 architects registered to practice in the state.

AIA Ohio advocates for access to affordable workforce housing as a fundamental right. Architects are at the forefront of the challenges inherent to providing safe, healthy and sustainable housing to all. Our association supports HB3 because it would help fulfill essential unmet needs that are reflected in Ohio's workforce housing crisis. Ohio currently has a shortfall of over 270,000 affordable housing units. The need for affordable workforce housing is growing throughout the state.

As we are all aware, there is a shortage of a capable workforce in Ohio, and the profession of Architecture is no exception. We largely draw on new talent from the five Universities in Ohio that are accredited to provide a professional degree in architecture. We need to retain this talent that is in Ohio and we also need to attract new talent to Ohio. One of major factors when young professionals and young families are deciding where they will reside is the cost of living or affordability.

Ohio's architects ask that you pass House Bill 3 to begin to address the need for housing that is priced right for the hardworking citizens of Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to address any questions.

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