

# Knowlton — School

**Re: Written Testimony against SB 83**  
**4/18/23**

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. I am an associate professor of architecture at The Ohio State University, a licensed architect in Ohio, and a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Language in SB 83 around “sustainability” could jeopardize our professional program’s national accreditation and would have a host of other consequences. SB 82 proposes to prohibit university faculty from endorsing, commenting on, or acting on “sustainability” as a “specified concept.” Such a prohibition would endanger the accreditation for our professional Master of Architecture (M.ARCH) degree program in which I teach.

Teaching about sustainability is fundamental to architectural education. In the United States, architectural programs are accredited through the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB). Their [Conditions for Accreditation 2020 edition](#) require, under the “Shared Values of the Discipline and Profession,” that accredited programs report how they address the value of “sustainable built environments.” Elsewhere NAAB’s “Program and Student Criteria” require accredited programs to demonstrate how curriculum address “Ecological Knowledge and Responsibility” (PC.3) so that “future architects [can] mitigate climate change responsibly.” I believe the language around the term “sustainability” in SB 82 would not allow us to comply with these conditions for accreditation.

Losing accreditation due to SB 83 could negatively affect the viability of the M.ARCH program at Ohio State University. Specifically, the bill’s passage could affect student applications, program enrollment, faculty retention, national ranking, and donor giving.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on SB 83. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony.

Sincerely,



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Associate Professor of Architecture

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