

**Bruce Sekanick, FAIA, on behalf of Phillips|Sekanick Architects, Inc., and the AIA Ohio Advocacy Committee**

Phillips Sekanick Architects  
142 East Market Street  
Warren, Ohio, 44481  
[p] 330.395.9518  
[f] 330.395.4296

**Hearing before the House Commerce and Labor Committee  
May 26, 2021, in support of Senate Bill 49**

Thank you, Chairman Stein, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee. My name is Bruce Sekanick, and I am writing as a registered architect in the state of Ohio, owner of an architectural firm in Warren, Ohio, and the Co-Chair of the AIA Ohio Advocacy Committee.

- All but a handful of architectural firms in Ohio are small businesses. Many firms have less than 50 employees and the majority of the firms across the state are sole proprietors or have fewer than 15 employees.
- Architects along with our allied design professionals perform their services prior to receiving payment. With no payment assurance protection in place in the state of Ohio, firms, through no fault of their own, are sometimes left uncompensated for their work.
- A loss of income to any business is difficult. A loss of income to small businesses can be especially devastating and can result in employee layoffs and business closures. I, along with many other firms throughout the state, have been forced to write-off hard earned fees because Ohio does not have payment assurance protections.

As a practicing architect for over 35 years registered in 22 states, and a firm owner for most of that time, I believe Senate Bill 49 provides architects and construction industry design professionals with an important tool to help ensure payment for professional services.

If you would like to contact me directly to discuss Senate Bill 49, I can be reached by email at [bruce@phillips-sekanick.com](mailto:bruce@phillips-sekanick.com) or by phone at 330-717-3905.

Thank you for your time and thank you for the opportunity to allow me to share my, and my colleagues' support of Senate Bill 49.

Bruce Sekanick, FAIA, OAA  
Phillips|Sekanick Architects, Inc., Warren, OH