

**House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Testimony in support of HB 2234
Presented by Terry Humphrey, Executive Director of AIA Kansas**

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Chairman Tarwater and members of the House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. I am Terry Humphrey, Executive Director of American Institute of Architects Kansas Chapter, and a representative of our Kansas architect members. AIA Kansas supports House Bill 2234.

AIA Kansas favors increasing the threshold before activating a review of the state building advisory commission. An increase from \$1 million in total project cost to \$1.5 million in construction costs is beneficial.

This increase reflects the costs of construction today and allows for the use of more on-call contracts, an efficient approach to expediting state building projects.

On-call contracts are efficient because they have been solicited, selected, negotiated, and contracted for the purpose of designing smaller construction projects. They eliminate unnecessary administrative resources and the convening of the state building advisory board for each individual small project.

As costs have risen in recent years, the necessity of an increased threshold has become more obvious to our members, and the shift proposed in this bill from total project costs (including architectural and engineering fees and other soft costs) to *construction costs* (not including architectural and engineering fees and other soft costs) is a more reasonable threshold for evaluating projects and the use of on-call contracts.

AIA Kansas urges support for House Bill 2234, and I am available to stand for questions at the conclusion of testimony. Thank you for your consideration.