



Driving change through the power of design

**Senate Commerce Committee
Testimony in support of HB 2234**

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. 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. The addition of increasing the threshold annually by the rate of inflation further supports the use of on-call contracts in the future.

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. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry Humphrey
Executive Director