

LACArch

March 2, 2023

Via E-mail

Senator Brian J. Feldman
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Annapolis, MD 21401
brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan
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Re: State Board of Architects

Dear Senators Feldman and Kagan - and other esteemed Committee Members:

I write to you today as your constituent asking for your support of the anticipated legislation to continue the State Board of Architects. AIA Maryland supports this legislation to continue the State Board of Architects and to allow the Board to continue to perform its duties to regulate the profession. The Maryland State Board of Architects qualifies and licenses individuals seeking architectural licensure, issues permits to businesses practicing architecture, and regulates the practice of architecture under the provision of State law. We call to your attention to the current sunset of July 1, 2023, so your support is particularly important.

The State Board of Architects provides, through regulation of the professional, for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of our communities. Our State Board of Architects also stands out as one of the 15 US States and 2 jurisdictions that accepts alternate licensure paths allowing work experience as an alternative to graduate college credits - a prerequisite to sitting for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). This process helps to diversify the profession to be more representative of Maryland at large by allowing a path for those for whom schooling may be deferred due to change in life/family circumstances while maintaining a career in architecture.

AIA Maryland and its membership care deeply about Maryland's built environment. We are proud of our State Board's efforts to create a more inclusive profession. AIA Maryland put forth a resolution for our national meeting encouraging all states to enable this inclusive and accessible path to licensure. We support this legislation to maintain the systems that regulate our practice, and we are delighted to advocate for this legislation and ask for your support.

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This is particularly relevant to me, as I fulfilled a lifelong dream of “hanging my own shingle,” which I was able to do in June 2021 in accordance with the procedures and policies set forth by the State Board of Architects. The oversight offered by the Board reassures my Clients that I am practicing in accordance with the regulations and values of the State and am also responsibly protecting their health, safety, and welfare through the work that I do. It also sets my firm, **LACArch**, apart from those that may not have fulfilled the proper licensure and educational requirements. For the same reason that a Patient wouldn’t see an unlicensed Physician or be represented by an Attorney who never became a member of the Bar. Therefore, it is especially important to extend and/or eliminate the termination date of the Board to guarantee that the work of all Architects in the State may continue to protect its constituents.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lori Apfel Cardeli, AIA, NCARB

CC: Senator Malcolm Augustine: malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us
Senator Katie Fry Hester: katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us
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