



March 10, 2021

Honorable Louis Blessing, III
Senate Building
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Blessing:

AIA Ohio
400 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 120
Worthington, OH 43085

(614) 221 0338

www.aiaohio.org

The Ohio Society of the American Institute of Architects supports the passage of SB 56 that would provide more equitable limits of indemnity clauses in design professional contracts for public improvements.

Passage of the bill would bring much needed relief to Ohio's Architects working on public improvement projects who are faced with the daunting risk of signing contracts that require Architects to defend public entities against third-party claims before there is any determination that an error was committed by the Architect providing the professional services.

Without passage of this bill, architects and our fellow design professionals will continue to be asked to pay for and defend the public authority, its officers, and employees from third party claims that may be a result of issues well beyond the Architect's control and professional standard of care. Just like the presumption of innocence that our justice system is based upon, a design professional should not be presumed guilty and responsible for the cost to defend against third party claims without a determination of actual wrong-doing.

Thank you, Senator Blessing, for introducing SB 56 that addresses a real concern of design professionals across the state of Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brunswick". The signature is stylized and includes a small flourish at the end.

Kate Brunswick, CAE, Hon. AIA
Executive Vice President

CC: Senate Judiciary Committee; Beth Easterday