NCARB
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October 20, 2025

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Economic Competitiveness
Anderson House Office Building, Room 521
124 North Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: House Bill 4913

Dear Committee Chair Hoadley, Majority Vice Chair Bohnak, Minority Vice Chair Grant, and distinguished members of the House Committee on Economic Competitiveness:

On behalf of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), I respectfully request that you consider amending House Bill 4913 to allow the Michigan Board of Architects (the Board) to accept alternative means of satisfying the education requirement through a combination of education and experience.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) supports the Michigan Board of Architects (the Board) in its commitment to protecting public health, safety, and welfare through the regulation of architecture in Michigan. We thank the Committee for allowing NCARB the opportunity to submit testimony and share our considerations regarding House Bill 4913.

NCARB facilitates the licensure process for architects across 55 U.S. states and territories that regulate the practice of architecture. We administer a national examination, experience program, and continue to streamline pathways to architecture licensure while upholding standards that prioritize public health, safety, and welfare.

Current Michigan law requires an applicant for an initial architectural license to provide evidence that they possess a professional degree in architecture satisfactory to the Board, as well as other evidence that they have passed the requisite examination, experience, and good moral character requirements of the state (MCL § 339.2004(1). **NCARB has been advocating for the last several years that jurisdictions move away from an requirement of attaining an accredited degree and toward allowing a combination of unaccredited education and additional experience to serve as another viable path to licensure.**

In its current form, HB 4913 would require the Board to accept, in addition to the current education requirement, an equivalent of a first professional degree. We applaud the bill's sponsors intent of expanding the licensure requirement and believe this to be a step in the right direction. However, to help ensure applicants have adequate training and exposure to the necessary knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation to perform their duties safely, effectively, and competently – we respectfully request that this Committee consider the following amendments which would allow the Board to consider a combination of education and experience in lieu of an accredited degree:

> (a) Provide evidence of completion of a first professional degree or further degree in architecture satisfactory to the board of architects ~~or the equivalent of a first professional degree, as determined by the board of architects~~ **or a combination of education and architectural work experience that the board of architects deems equivalent to a professional degree in architecture**.

The language above would allow individuals with non-accredited architectural education backgrounds the opportunity to demonstrate their competency through an evaluation of the education and documentation of their experience in the field. Such a path would allow for flexibility and accessibility to the profession – without sacrificing the necessary rigor.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoint on this matter. We welcome the opportunity to assist the Committee as it deliberates on House Bill 4913. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Maurice Brown, NCARB's Assistant Vice President of Advocacy and External Engagement (mbrown@ncarb.org) with any questions or further information.

Respectfully,



Joshua C. Batkin
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, Vice President for Council Relations