

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lawler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawler:

On behalf of the undersigned national architectural and regulatory associations, schools of architecture, student organizations, and accrediting bodies, **we write in strong support of HR 6718, the Professional Student Degree Act.** This legislation takes an important step toward aligning federal student loan policy with the realities of contemporary professional education, including accredited architecture programs leading to a Masters or Doctorate in Architecture.

By codifying and expanding the statutory definition of “professional degree,” the bill recognizes that architecture belongs alongside law, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and other advanced programs that require significant post-undergraduate study and licensure in order to enter practice. Architecture students complete rigorous, National Architectural Accrediting Board-accredited curricula and technical coursework comparable in intensity and duration to other listed fields and prepare students to take state-approved licensing exams.

The Professional Student Degree Act ensures that these students are eligible for the higher federal loan limits reserved for other licensure-based professions. This change will help students from modest-income and first-generation backgrounds cover the full cost of attendance without excessive reliance on private loans, and it will strengthen the pipeline of future architects needed to design safe, sustainable, and affordable buildings and communities.

Importantly, the bill affirms a principle that architectural educators and accreditors have long maintained: the education required to enter the architecture profession demands a level of professional skill, responsibility, and preparation commensurate with other advanced health, legal, and public-serving professions already recognized.

We respectfully urge you and your colleagues to advance HR 6718 without delay and to encourage broad bipartisan co-sponsorship. Our institutions and organizations stand ready to work with you to ensure that federal student loan policy supports the next generation of architects and the communities they will serve.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Architects

American Institute of Architecture Students

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

National Architectural Accrediting Board

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

National Organization of Minority Architects