

Passed by Voice Vote 4/29/14

AR 7 - In Support of the National Design Services Act

Authors: Mr. Andrew Grant Houston (Former Representative, School of Architecture), Ms. Valentina Rodriguez (Representative, School of Architecture), Mr. Sergio Cavazos (Representative, College of Liberal Arts)

Sponsors: Ms. Marisa Beyerlein (Representative, Moody College of Communication), Mr. Sergio Cavazos (Representative, College of Liberal Arts), Mr. Jackson Clifford (Representative, McCombs School of Business), Ms. Shannon Geison (Representative, University-Wide), Mr. James Nalley (Representative, Cockrell School of Engineering), Ms. Valentina Rodriguez (Representative, School of Architecture), Ms. Jessica Sherman (Representative, Jackson School of Geosciences)

WHEREAS, Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at Austin; and,

WHEREAS, the average student graduating from an architecture program has a debt of 40,000 dollars upon graduation, which is 15,000 higher than the national student loan debt average¹; and,

WHEREAS, in a 2012 survey done by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the average Bachelor of Architecture salary before withholding is 36,966², which is over \$7,000 lower than the national average of a college graduate of that same year³; and,

WHEREAS, in order to become a licensed architect, a graduate must go through the Intern Development Process that requires 5,600 hours of work experience, or the equivalent of 2.8 years with a 40-hour work week⁴; and,

WHEREAS, in order to become a licensed architect, a graduate must also pass the Architectural Registration Examination, which is comprised of seven exams⁵; and,

WHEREAS, the total cost of obtaining a license sums to the amount of \$2,232⁶, which does not include the 1,500 certification fee and annual license renewal cost of \$225; and,

WHEREAS, the National Design Services Act (NDSA) is a proposal to allow architecture graduates and emerging professionals to give pro bono services in underserved communities in exchange for debt assistance; and,

WHEREAS, similar programs exist for graduates of medical, law, and other professional programs⁷; and,

¹ Architects Support Students' Call for Pro Bono Work in Exchange for Loan Relief - <http://www.aia.org/press/releases/AIAB094281>

² AIAS Financial Survey of Architectural Students - <http://www.aias.org/website/article.asp?id=2215>

³ Salary Survey - <http://naceweb.org/s09042013/salary-survey-average-starting-class-2013.aspx>

⁴ Intern Development Program - <http://www.ncarb.org/en/Experience-Through-Internships.aspx>

⁵ Architect Registration Examination - <http://www.ncarb.org/ARE.aspx>

⁶ The Costs Associated With Becoming An Architect - <http://www.lifeofanarchitect.com/the-costs-associated-with-becoming-an-architect/>

WHEREAS, the NDSA entered the House of Representatives as H.R. 2405⁸, but has not entered the Senate; and

WHEREAS, in order to be enacted it must be passed by both the US House and Senate; and,

WHEREAS, there is a petition to support the NDSA with over 5,000 signatures⁹; and,

WHEREAS, there is support from both the AIA and the American Institute of Architecture Students for the timely passage of the NDSA; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Texas at Austin Student Government supports the National Design Services Act; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Government supports any federal programs that allow for the repayment of student loans through volunteership; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this piece of legislation be sent to the Dean of the School of Architecture, the Governmental Affairs Office of the American Institute of Architects, the Office of the President, the Vice President of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Office of the Dean of Students, Mr. Louie Gohmert (United States Congressman), Mr. Ted Poe (United States Congressman), Mr. Sam Johnson (United States Congressman), Mr. Ralph M. Hall (United States Congressman), Mr. Jeb Hensarling (United States Congressman), Mr. Joe Barton (United States Congressman), Mr. John Culberson (United States Congressman), Mr. Kevin Brady (United States Congressman), Mr. Al Green (United States Congressman), Mr. Michael T. McCaul (United States Congressman), Mr. Michael K. Conaway (United States Congressman), Mrs. Kay Granger (United States Congresswoman), Mr. Mac Thornberry (United States Congressman), Mr. Randy Weber (United States Congressman), Mr. Ruben Hinojosa (United States Congressman), Mr. Beto O'Rourke (United States Congressman), Mr. Bill Flores (United States Congressman), Mrs. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States Congresswoman), Mr. Randy Neugebauer (United States Congressman), Mr. Joaquin Castro (United States Congressman), Mr. Lamar Smith (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Olson (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Gallego (United States Congressman), Mr. Kenny Marchant (United States Congressman), Mr. Roger Williams (United States Congressman), Mr.

⁷ Get Rid of Student Loan Debt Without Paying for It - <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2013/10/30/get-rid-of-student-loan-debt-without-paying-for-it>

⁸ H.R. 2405 - <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr4205ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr4205ih.pdf>

⁹ Members of Congress: Support the National Design Services Act (NDSA)! - http://www.change.org/petitions/members-of-congress-support-the-national-design-services-act-ndsas?utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=supporter_message

Michael Burgess (United States Congressman), Mr. Blake Farenthold (United States Congressman), Mr. Henry Cuellar (United States Congressman), Mr. Gene Green (United States Congressman), Mrs. Eddie Bernice Johnson (United States Congresswoman), Mr. John Carter (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Sessions (United States Congressman), Mr. Marc Veasey (United States Congressman), Mr. Filemon Vela (United States Congressman), Mr. Lloyd Doggett (United States Congressman), Mr. Steve Stockman (United States Congressman), Mr. Ted Cruz (United States Senator), Mr. John Cornyn (United States Senator), and all media outlets deemed necessary