



AIA
Michigan

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On the morning of April 17th, I woke up early to get ready and quickly scoot out the door. I had slept poorly, thanks to my younger son waking up in the middle of the night. I checked my work email quick, and set my email to auto-respond that I would be out for the day. My wonderful husband Chris took our boys to their respective places for the day. And I headed to Lansing for Legislative Day.

Legislative Day is when we go to Lansing with our allied professionals – engineers and surveyors – to lobby legislators on issues important to all of us. Whenever we ask our members about what are the most critical activities we perform at AIA Michigan, government advocacy is always high on list. Yet over the years, the number of architects attending this important event have diminished. While some issues take years to make progress, some are fast and pass quickly, and our impact is felt through them all.

That day in April, I had other places I could have been. I had work and family demands to balance. I could easily have chosen to skip it, and not put in the extra hours at work to make up for my time away. But I didn't. I believe it is too important for us to be leaders – both in our profession and outside it. Going to Legislative Day is just a few hours out of the many, many hours you have in a year. How will you choose to spend them?

Legislative Day comes every year on a Wednesday in March or April. The date is set months ahead of time, and every time, we advertise it to our members. Block the day as soon as you hear about it, keep it clear, and join us! I look forward to seeing you next year and many years to come.

Onward and upward,

Kristen Nyht, AIA, AICP, LEED AP