



KARA E. KEMPSKI

DIRECTOR, FEDERAL RELATIONS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Kara Kempksi is the Director of Federal Relations at the American Institute of Architects (AIA). She directs the organization's lobbying efforts before Congress and the Administration. As part of that work, Kara leads the federal policy analysis on issues important to the profession of architecture. This includes climate action, resilient infrastructure, affordable housing, economic recovery, and education. Kara works closely with colleagues to coordinate AIA's outreach to federal policy-focused coalitions and industry groups. She also collaborates with colleagues to engage AIA members directly in federal advocacy through grassroots activations.

Before joining AIA in 2018, Kara worked for five years at the Council for a Strong America, a membership organization of active law enforcement officers, retired military leaders, and business executives who advocate for investments in children. During that time, Kara led successful federal advocacy campaigns on child abuse prevention and juvenile justice reform.

Kara graduated from Gettysburg College with a B.A. in History and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a M.A in American History. Her master's thesis evaluated the disconnect between the official federal policy and the real-world ability for African American veterans in Knoxville, Tennessee to claim the benefits they had earned after WWI and WWII.

Before graduating college, Kara was thrilled to spend two separate summers interning for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and the National Baseball Hall of Fame.