



2/13/09

Dear Legislator,

I am a professional interior designer who has been working in the commercial dealership market for over 10 years and I support interior design licensing.

I have seen first hand the damage that can be done when non-qualified salesman and decorators layout commercial projects. I have stopped clearances that were too narrow for fire egress, shelving that was too high to allow sprinklers to work properly, furniture from blocking fire exit doors and even the wrong colors from being chosen. How can colors effect the public safety, health and welfare? In this case a friend of a friend who called themselves an interior designer was recommending the color red for a cardiac unit. Thankfully the customer and I were able to point out that the color red causes a subconscious rise in blood pressure and how detrimental that would be to heart patients.

Examples like these prove to me that the title "Interior Designer" needs to be restricted to individuals with the education, experience and testing to protect the public from these kind of potentially deadly mistakes. Unfortunately in our society the term "interior designer" has been able to be used by anyone and the general public does not realize the difference between a qualified designer and one who is not.

Interior designers are often called upon to perform work that must adhere to fire and ADA codes and that addresses ergonomic and sustainability issues. We are highly trained in these areas but our profession needs protected. We have recently been threatened by groups that seek to limit our scope of work so that we either have to work for an architect or engineer or limit ourselves to fabric and finish selections only. We are basically asking that those and only those that have the education, experience and testing be recognized as "Interior Designers" and be allowed to do the work they are trained for.

Please support interior design licensing and help protect our profession and the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Respectfully,

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