

The Design Alliance

A R C H I T E C T S

18 February, 2009

To whom it may concern:

As a practicing interior designer, I am writing to endorse licensure for interior design professionals. I believe that regulation is necessary to ensure a minimum level of competence for those in our profession and to ensure that the spaces we design are safe, functional, and comply with local building codes.

After earning a bachelor's degree from an accredited interior design program, I worked for 3 ½ years at an architectural/ interior design firm before taking and passing the NCIDQ exam last October. I work side by side with teams of interior designers, architects, and structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineers. As a result of this experience, I have come to believe that licensure is crucial to standardize my profession. It is especially critical for the future of young designers and college students studying interior design in Pennsylvania. We need to establish a system of licensing through education, experience, and examination to enable members of our profession to be knowledgeable and competitive. The interior designers, architects, and engineers I work with expect this level of competence from their team members.

During the last 3 ½ years, I have realized that much of my work affects the health, safety, and welfare of my clients. From detailing fire-rated walls and glazing systems, to specifying energy efficient building and finish materials, to implementing ADA and ANSI 117 guidelines, what I do directly affects the life safety and health of my clients and the other consumers who use those spaces. It is imperative that we protect the consumers that live and work in the spaces we design. Just as architects and engineers must be licensed to ensure they design safe structures and spaces, interior designers must be licensed to ensure the safety of the interior environment.

I strongly urge your support of licensure for interior designers to protect consumers and to ensure the future of our profession.

Sincerely,

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