

Dear Honorable Representative,

As a constituent living and working in your district, I am writing to ask that you support the Interior Designers Practice Act for the regulation of interior design. Interior design directly affects our personal health, welfare and safety, as well as the lives and safety of those around us. Regulating the practice is the only way to ensure qualified professionals are working on public projects and commercial/residential interior environments.

I am a design firm owner and practitioner with over twenty-five years of experience in commercial and residential interior design. Our firm practices nationally and specializes in assisting home owners, empty nesters, life care facilities, among others, in creating and maintaining functional, safe living spaces. In order to perform this job safely and professionally, it is essential that I and those whom I employ acquire and develop knowledge of codes, standards and ethics. It is crucial that all designers in the state hold themselves to universal educational and professional practice standards as regulated through licensing.

Professional interior designers are qualified by education, experience and examination. In Pennsylvania, there are 17-degree programs for interior design, including 3 masters programs. Currently, over 1,000 students are enrolled in local interior design schools. Additionally, over 607 interior designers in Pennsylvania have passed the NCIDQ exam that specifically tests designer knowledge of interior building codes and ADA accessibility. Through such education, interior designers specialize in developing all of the spaces we live and occupy, taking particular consideration for the tiniest life, the elderly and the disabled. Interior design protects all of those who are held captive to the indoor environment they had no participation in creating.

The federal government recognizes the importance of licensing interior design professionals by allowing designers who are regulated by a “practice act” to perform services for governmental agencies. It is not the intention of interior design regulation to qualify designers as architects or engineers. However, the skills professional interior designers possess are critical to the appropriate selection of the materials that compose the interior built environment. As your constituent, I am asking for your support of **the Interior Designer’s Practice Act**. It will positively impact public safety and welfare as well as arm interior design professionals with the regulation and licensing standard so important to any practitioner.

Sincerely,

Trish Gorman, Allied ASID
Patricia Gorman Associates, Inc.