



Ally Maloney Winzer

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Re: H7842/ S2518 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions: State of Rhode Island  
Interior Design Practice Act

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

I am writing to express my strong support for H7842 / Bill S2518, An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions, State of Rhode Island Interior Design Practice Act.

My name is Ally Maloney Winzer, and I am the owner of an interior design firm based in Newport. I have been in business for over ten years and employ a small team of design professionals. In addition to leading my practice, I have been an active member of the American Society of Interior Designers, a national professional organization, and served on the Board of the New England Chapter for eight years, including my final year as President. Most recently, I have been a member of the Chapter's Advocacy Committee and have been directly involved in the development of this legislation.

I am part of a broad coalition of practitioners, educators, small business owners, and industry leaders across Rhode Island who are committed to advancing professional standards within the field. Interior design is a distinct profession centered on the planning and design of interior environments that safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of occupants while enhancing the overall human experience.

I see this legislation as an important and necessary step to ensure that interior design professionals meet the qualifications required to make critical design decisions that impact the public. This bill would provide qualified interior designers, those who meet established education, examination, and experience requirements, with greater professional autonomy and equity, including the ability to stamp and seal non-structural interior construction documents. It also brings alignment with our industry peers, including architects, engineers, and construction professionals.

It is important to note that this legislation does not limit or restrict the work of current design professionals, including those of us practicing residential interior design. Instead, the bill is intended to strengthen professional recognition while avoiding the imposition of unnecessary

barriers. Interior designers working in commercial, healthcare, educational, and public settings are responsible for key aspects of the built environment that directly impact occupant safety and well-being. These responsibilities include space planning and functional layout, accessibility compliance, life-safety considerations, adherence to building and fire codes, as well as decisions that influence occupant health and environmental quality.

At present, 29 states, along with Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, have enacted legislation recognizing or regulating the practice of interior design. Within New England, both Connecticut and Maine have established similar legislation.

Advancing this bill would help bring Rhode Island into alignment with these jurisdictions, supporting consistent professional standards, enhanced consumer protections, and improved workforce mobility across state lines. It affirms that interior designers who meet established qualifications are equipped to take responsibility for safe, code-compliant interior environments. It also provides clarity for building officials and industry partners, while supporting continued economic growth within the design and construction sectors.

As a women-owned small business owner in Rhode Island, I respectfully urge you to support Bill H7842 / S2518 in recognition of the essential role interior designers play in protecting the public and advancing the profession.

Thank you for your service to our state. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions or discuss this legislation further.

Sincerely,

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