



HEADQUARTERS

111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 222
Chicago, IL 60601 USA
888.799.IIDA (4432)
www.iida.org

House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

April 2, 2026

Dear Chair Solomon, First Vice-Chair O'Brien, Second Vice-Chair Caldwell,

My name is Cheryl Durst, and I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer for the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). I am writing to register IIDA's support of H 7842.

With more than 15,000 members, IIDA represents and supports design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, and firms across 58 countries. We advocate for the advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, and accreditation to increase the value and understanding of the profession of Interior Design, and its role in protecting public health, safety, and welfare.

In Rhode Island, H 7842 would allow qualified interior design practitioners to be recognized as a profession and carry out the work they are thoroughly trained and tested to do. Currently, 30 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, have legislation in place recognizing the profession of interior design, with Idaho just signing such legislation last week. This legislation would enable qualified practitioners to take responsibility for their projects, thereby strengthening protections for the public. H 7842 clarifies the scope and practice of interior design to include only interior non-structural work, while providing clear direction on work outside of the purview of interior design.

H 7842 is good for business. It would create equality of entry into the marketplace for interior designers and interior design firms, while incentivizing students and young professionals to begin and continue their careers in Rhode Island. H 7842 increases consumer choice for design services, reduces project times, and expands the business opportunities for small business interior designers and firms, many of which are women-owned.

On behalf of the health, safety and welfare and the economy of Rhode Island residents, I ask you that you please support H 7842. If you have questions about this legislation or the role of IIDA, please contact me directly.

Best wishes,

Cheryl Durst
Executive Vice President/CEO
The International Interior Design Association