

April 2, 2026

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 Corporation,

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

Thank you to the members of this committee who have sponsored this important legislation.

My name is Kelly Taylor. I own an interior design firm in Providence that I started 22 years ago. Today our studio has five employees. I hold a BA in English, an Associate Degree in Interior Design from Parsons School of Design, and a Master of Sustainable Design Studies from the Boston Architectural College.

My education is important to me.

I also worked in architecture and design firms in New York before moving to Providence in 2001, where I became the first interior designer at DBVW Architects. I approached them because I believed their work would benefit from an interior design professional. After interviewing me, they agreed—and today the firm has an interior design department.

My experience is important to me.

I am also an NCIDQ-certified interior designer and a professional member of IIDA and ASID—credentials that require education, experience and passing a national exam.

Earning certification through examination is important to me.

At my firm, I employ young, educated designers who are working towards meeting their hours in order to sit for the NCIDQ exam and establish their own credentials.

Serving as a mentor to the next generation of designers is important to me.

Despite all of that, in Rhode Island anyone can print a business card and call themselves an "interior designer." That is astounding to me. The person that cuts my hair is required to have a license in the state of R.I. I would argue that I am far more responsible to the public's life safety, health and welfare than the person that cuts my hair.



For nearly 25 years I have advocated for legislation in Rhode Island to help the public understand who is qualified to do my job. In 2002, we introduced a bill that would have restricted the title "Interior Designer" to credentialed professionals alone.

This bill before you is different—it is not restrictive. It simply allows the state to recognize those designers who meet established standards so the public can make informed decisions. In my work, I collaborate with many professionals—architects, landscape architects, contractors, and others—professionals that are required to be licensed in order to practice and title themselves as such. Even though my office produces full construction drawings for interiors, I cannot call myself an Interior Architect. I do not have the proper education, experience or examination to employ that title.

I know my professional boundaries, and the professionals I collaborate with know that I do. I have brought many architects, engineers and others into projects because I know what is and very much what is not in my purview.

My advocacy extends beyond my own firm. I am also a co-founder of DesignxRI, a nonprofit economic development organization that supports Rhode Island's design sector. Since 2013, I have contributed both time and financial support because I believe design is a critical economic driver in our state.

After nearly 25 years of advocating for this profession, I am here to respectfully ask that you recognize those who have met established standards and provide appropriate state oversight for the practice of interior design.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly C. Taylor' with a decorative flourish at the end.

Kelly C. Taylor