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ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

**TESTIMONY ON 26-H 7842,
AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – STATE OF RHODE
ISLAND INTERIOR DESIGN PRACTICE ACT
April 2, 2026**

The ACLU of Rhode Island has no position on the thrust of this bill which would establish a board to promulgate rules and regulations related to interior designers. We are concerned, however, by the requirement that an applicant must submit to the board their social security number to apply for registration as an interior designer.

While we appreciate that the proposed legislation prohibits the applicant's social security number from being deemed a public record and open to public inspection, we are concerned that this does not go far enough in protecting the applicant's information provided for purposes of licensing.

We see no clear need for an applicant to provide a social security number to obtain certification for this profession. We would additionally caution against the state expanding its data collection without first better protecting the security of the data they already possess, especially when the Committee is reminded that the State has been at the epicenter of at least two incredibly damaging data breaches in the past few years. We therefore urge the deletion of this particular requirement from the legislation.

Thank you for considering our views.