



Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), I write in support of **Senate Bill (S) 2518 and companion House Bill (H) 7842, the Rhode Island Interior Design Practice Act**. ASID is a professional association representing thousands of interior designers, manufacturers, and organizations within the built environment nationwide who are committed to protecting public health, safety, and welfare in interior spaces.

Interior designers play a critical role in shaping the spaces where people live, work, learn, play, and heal. Like other design professions—including architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture—the practice of interior design relies on a rigorous framework of **education, experience, and examination** to ensure that qualified professionals are prepared to make decisions that affect building performance and occupant safety.

Interior designers are prepared through a comprehensive framework of **education, experience, and examination**, including a strong academic foundation with coursework in building systems, codes and accessibility, life safety, human behavior and ergonomics, and materials performance— plus training that equips designers to address occupants' health, safety, and well-being in workplaces, healthcare facilities, schools, and other public environments. Interior design professionals then complete structured work experience under licensed or credentialed practitioners, gaining real-world exposure to building codes, coordination with architects and engineers, contract documentation, and project administration, all of which **supports collaboration across the design industry, streamlines projects, and manages project costs**.

Beyond professional standards, this legislation also supports Rhode Island's design economy. Clear recognition of qualified interior designers helps **small businesses compete nationally**, particularly when working across state lines where similar credentials are already recognized. Aligning Rhode Island with other states that recognize professional interior designers will help retain talented graduates and reduce the need for designers to leave the state to practice in regulated jurisdictions.

Importantly, the legislation is **not exclusionary**. Residential designers may continue practicing as they do today, while the bill simply recognizes professional qualifications for interior designers working in commercial and complex building environments.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to align with a national majority, support its design workforce, and strengthen collaboration across the built environment professions. For these reasons, ASID respectfully urges your support for S2518 and H7842. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren A. Earley, Esq., Director of Advocacy
American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)