

Butera Building LLC

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March 8, 2026

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill S2518 / H7842: An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – State of Rhode Island Interior Design Practice Act. My name is David Butera and I am a RI licensed General Contractor with fifty years of experience. I live in Barrington, Rhode Island, work all over Rhode Island and I am committed to supporting professional standards that strengthen the design and construction industry in our state.

Interior design is a distinct profession focused on the planning and design of interior environments that protect the health, safety, and welfare of occupants while supporting and enhancing the human experience. I work with interior designers on nearly every project we do at Butera Building LLC.

I view this legislation as a necessary step to ensure that interior design practitioners meet the qualifications required to make critical design decisions and recommendations that impact the public. I have worked with way too many designers that are not qualified for this job than I can possibly remember and witnessed gross errors that luckily, I have known better than to build.

This bill will provide interior design professionals who fulfill education, examination, and experience requirements with:

- ☒ Greater professional autonomy and equity
- ☒ The ability to stamp and seal non-structural interior construction documents
- ☒ Alignment with their industry colleagues, including architects, engineers, and construction professionals

Importantly, this legislation does not restrict the practice of current design professionals. It simply gives the public a way to differentiate between those that do have the education, examination and experience and those who do not.

Interior designers are responsible for critical aspects of the built environment that directly affect occupant safety and well-being. These responsibilities include:

- ☒ Space planning and functional design
- ☒ Accessibility compliance

- ☒ Life-safety considerations
- ☒ Adherence to building and fire codes
- ☒ Material selections affecting indoor air quality and infection control
- ☒ Design decisions that influence occupant health and overall environmental quality

Currently, 29 states, as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, have enacted legislation recognizing or regulating the profession of interior design. Within New England, Connecticut and Maine have established interior design legislation and we expect Massachusetts to pass legislation very soon.

Passing this bill would help align Rhode Island with these jurisdictions to ensure:

- ☒ Consistent professional standards
- ☒ Stronger consumer protections
- ☒ Improved workforce mobility across state lines

This legislation affirms that qualified interior designers who meet established education, experience, and examination standards will take responsibility for code-compliant and safe interior environments. It will also provide clarity for building officials and allied professionals while supporting economic development within the design and construction industries.

As a business owner and builder in the State of Rhode Island, I respectfully ask that you support Bill S2518 / H7842 in recognition of the important role interior designers play in protecting the public and advancing the profession.

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

Sincerely,



David Butera

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