

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto  
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly

Dear Chair Britto, Vice Chair Sosnowski and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), I write in support of SB 2518/HB 7842, which would allow qualified interior design practitioners to take responsibility for their work and strengthen protections for the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the built environment.

CIDQ is the premier certification body for the interior design profession. With a membership comprising state regulatory boards across the U.S. and Canada, our organization upholds a shared commitment to public protection. We develop and administer the three-part NCIDQ Examination, used by U.S. jurisdictions to assess minimum competency for registration or licensure. To qualify for the exam, candidates must complete formal postsecondary education in interior design and thousands of hours of supervised experience—standards similar to other licensed design professions. This rigorous pathway ensures that certificate holders are prepared to practice the interior design independently and responsibly in commercial, code-regulated settings such as offices, hotels, hospitals, and schools.

Interior design is a distinct profession with a critical role in safeguarding occupants in commercial interior environments. NCIDQ-Certified Interior Designers are trained to apply building codes, accessibility requirements, and life-safety standards, and they are qualified in areas such as egress planning, fire safety, materials selection, and ergonomics. Their work helps reduce risk of harm and ensures that interior spaces are safe, functional, and code compliant. Because of this impact on public safety, reasonable regulation is appropriate. As the [Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation](#) has stated: *“The unregulated practice of interior design presents at least a moderate risk of public harm. The involvement of other regulated design professionals or building codes and inspections may not be sufficient to mitigate potential hazards to public health, safety, and welfare.”*

Adopting reasonable regulation tied to the NCIDQ Examination offers Rhode Island a reliable means of ensuring that interior designers practicing in public spaces are properly qualified to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare. CIDQ thanks the committee for considering this legislation and respectfully requests a favorable report on c. I would be pleased to serve as a resource to the committee and answer any questions about the NCIDQ Examination and can be reached at [mbarusch@cidq.org](mailto:mbarusch@cidq.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew Barusch, CAE  
Director, Government Affairs