



March 09, 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 Rebecca McGeorge, and I have held my NCIDQ certificate (NO. 24706) since 2008.

My business partner, a licensed architect, and I have co-owned an Architecture and interior Design firm in East Greenwich for over 15 years. Together we are committed to supporting professional standards that strengthen the design and construction industry in our state. We support and encourage professional licensure within our own staff, for both interior design and architecture. We believe it is important to require this level of professionalism for both architecture and interior design.

My belief that Interior Design, as a *profession*, must include a strong education has led me to act as an adjunct professor at New England Institute of Technology in the ABT/Interior design department since 2015, teaching classes such as "Professional Practice for Interior Design", focusing on the legal, ethical, and business aspects of Interior design and Building Codes for Interior designers, focusing on current ADA guidelines and requirements, egress requirements and calculations, etc. just to name a few.

I am committed to advancing professional standards. 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; it is not "paint and color" only.

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. All too often we see underqualified people representing themselves as interior designers without the necessary qualifications, with no regard to building codes and general guidelines.

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 our industry colleagues including architects, engineers, and construction professionals

Importantly, this legislation does not restrict the practice of current design professionals.



Interior designers working in commercial, healthcare, educational, and public environments 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.

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 Licensed professional interior design and Architect 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,

Rebecca McGeorge, NCIDQ 024706, LEED AP  
Director of Interior Design  
McGeorge Architecture Interiors  
East Greenwich, RI  
[rebecca@mcgeorgeai.com](mailto:rebecca@mcgeorgeai.com)  
401.398.7606