

Submitter: Sermin Yesilada
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2141

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support of HB 2141 relating to voluntary registration for Commercial Interior Designers. This bill creates a voluntary registry for Commercial Interior Designers in Oregon, provides a legal definition of practice and enables stamp and seal privileges for permitting. This bill does not encroach on or change the law regarding an Architect's scope of practice in Oregon, nor does it exclude non-registered design professionals from practicing commercial interior design.

I am a registered Architect in the State of Oregon, an NCIDQ certified interior designer, and small business owner. I have a Bachelor of Interior Architecture, a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon, and 20 years of combined experience. My scope of work includes affordable and market rate housing, transitional housing and shelter, infill residential development, commercial tenant improvements, and healthcare projects. Prior to becoming an Architect, I advocated for a voluntary commercial interior design registration in 2009 and 2011. I experienced first-hand the difficulty not having a legal definition or stamp and seal privileges had on my chosen profession. I worked for an independent commercial interior design firm, so while we frequently successfully permitted non-structural interior tenant improvement projects in the Cities of Portland and Beaverton, we were not able to in Eugene, Salem, Bend, or Gresham. These projects were clearly exempt from the scope of practice of Architects as defined in ORS 671. Having no sustainable clear path to become a business owner providing commercial interior design services, I decided to return to school to become an Architect. I was fortunate to have a partner with a stable and high enough income to support me in this endeavor.

Architects who have previously testified against a voluntary registry for Commercial Interior Design in Oregon have stated the definition is unclear, infringes on the practice of Architecture, and does not protect the health safety and welfare of the public. Having gone through the education, experience, and examination for both Architecture and Commercial Interior Design, I confidently state this opinion is inaccurate. Commercial Interior Designers who have met the qualifications as outlined by the Council of Interior Design Qualification are absolutely trained to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public within the scope of Commercial Interior Design, as defined in this bill. The practices of Architecture and Commercial Interior Design do have some overlap; however, Commercial Interior Designers

specialize in the interior environment. Complex projects like hospitals, airports, laboratories, mental health facilities, schools, workplaces, and multifamily housing need specialists in Commercial Interior Design as part of the Architecture and Engineering design team. Safety, accessibility, and code compliance are crucial in these environments and Commercial Interior Designers are trained to and do provide that expertise.

HB2141 acknowledges the training, education, and expertise of qualified Commercial Interior Designers and allows them to fully practice within their scope, just like Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, and Construction trade professionals. It helps retain Oregon's graduating students by providing a clear career path. Like me, many Commercial Interior Designers are small business owners, women-led enterprises, and sole practitioners. HB2141 would remove barriers to work independently and bid on projects that require a registered design professional but are under the exempt category from the practice of Architecture.

Please vote yes to move this bill out of committee and to Ways and Means.

Thank you,

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