

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

I, the undersigned, urge the Oregon State Legislature to pass House Bill 2141-1, establishing the Registered Commercial Interior Design Title Act to recognize, protect, and enhance the role of Commercial Interior Designers in Oregon.

I have been practicing in code-impacted environments for 10 years and hold a certificate from the Council for Interior Design Qualification that validates an interior designer's knowledge and proficiency in the field, serving as a recognized indicator of competency. I have worked on tenant improvements, workplace, apartment housing, civic buildings, community health centers, and hospitality spaces and I am responsible for ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of occupants in Oregon, often training and managing architectural team members toward the same goal.

Currently, my job title is not legally recognized in Oregon. There is a lack of understanding of what my job entails, from the general public, who often exclaim that my job "sounds fun" then ask if I can help decorate their bedroom, to architects in my own office who are unaware of the full breadth of my skillset and technical expertise of interior elements. It shows a detrimental lack of understanding for our profession. Everyone has their own idea of what Interior Design is based on personal experiences, often from reality television or considering it a hobby, or a side job. It is a constant conversation to inform others on the rigorous training and experience required, while yes, also often being fun and enjoyable.

I urge the Oregon State Legislature to pass this bill to recognize our job title and the technical and professional expertise required; to bring more awareness to this career and expand the diversity of demographics of Interior Designers; to allow more independence and support for solo practitioners and small businesses; and to ensure consumer protection by hiring Interior Designers trained in building code, fire & life safety, and accessibility (ADA).

In 2021, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) released a joint report comparing the skills, knowledge, and tasks required for Architecture and Interior Design. The goal was to improve collaboration and regulation by clarifying public confusion about each profession's roles. I encourage you to review this report to better understand the similarities and differences in our training, which substantiate our qualifications for the scope of work we are seeking to practice as registered design professionals.

<https://www.ncarb.org/press/ncarb-and-cidq-release-joint-report-architecture-and-interior-design>

https://www.ncarb.org/sites/default/files/NCARB-CIDQ_Report.pdf

Passing this bill would create more opportunities for myself and my peers to practice to the full extent of our qualifications—whether as sole practitioners, shareholders who can take on responsibility, or more recognized and respected team members. Thank you for your time.