

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Shilling, Adam J. <adam@designalaska.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Cc:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki; dianneblumer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** SB73 Testimony

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee members,

My name is Adam Shilling, I live in the City of Fairbanks within Senate District P.

I am a licensed Architect and I am opposed to SB73. My concern is twofold; first, the license for an interior designer does not represent a responsibility for life-safety comparable to an architect or an engineer. Second, the increase in red-tape and state expenses to regulate the industry is not a valuable use of state resources. To expand on the life-safety issue, I acknowledge there is a minor life-safety component to interior design. Selecting appropriate finishes for a healthy and comfortable environment is important, however a license comparable to an architect whose license qualifies them to design in a way that allows the public to occupy a building and exit that building in case of a fire is an overvaluation for an interior designer's responsibility with respect to that of an architect. One could replace 'architect' in the previous statement with 'engineer', the state of Alaska has determined the individual designing a public structure to remain erect during heavy snow or seismic events shall be a licensed structural engineer, and to elevate interior designers to that same threshold of responsibility is diminishing to other licensed design professionals in the state. To expand my second point, adding members to the AELS board and another full time employee is an increase in state spending, bureaucracy and red tape with the intent to protect the public from an amorphous risk that has yet to be made apparent. My opposition to SB73 is rooted in the lack of responsibility the professional holds for life-safety to the general public with respect to already licensed professions, as well as the disproportionate increase in state spending, bureaucracy and red tape.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Adam Shilling, AIA**  
**Architect | Design Alaska, Inc.**  
601 College Road | Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907.452.1241 | [Adam@designalaska.com](mailto:Adam@designalaska.com)

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jason Floyd <floyd.ultd@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:24 PM  
**To:** Konrad Jackson  
**Subject:** SB 73

Good afternoon Konrad,

Please provide this documentation to Chair Bjorkman and the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee for addition as public testimony opposing SB 73.

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Greeting Chairman Bjorkman and Honorable members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

**The field of Design is broad offering a wide variety of vendors and services that may inappropriately fall under regulation if SB 73 is to pass in its current form.**

**Not all design projects require the alteration of structure, and in many cases only require the application of fixtures, materials, and finishes to existing structure. Designers assist in the development of plan concepts, help inform the planning process, and in some instances assist clients in securing project grants, loans, private funding, and investment. In many instances Designers assist in concept development and support marketing projects prior to, during and following completion. Those engaged in design bring much needed added value to the building industry, but are likely to be unfairly and unjustifiably targeted, impacted or otherwise eliminated under the practice definition offered in SB 73.**

**Regulation and law should not be created to benefit a small segment of people in a much broader industry. Regulation must serve the public interest based on quantifiable needs and concerns and must be specific and well defined. Poorly crafted law leads to poorly crafted, overly restrictive and overreaching regulation, which will lead to artificial restriction in vendor supply, stifled creativity, and increased industry and consumer cost. At this time our state needs more designers, builders, engineers' and architects, not less.**

So far I have not seen any supporting commentary showing how this bill improves or addresses actual public safety issues or concerns, and while some state this bill will protect the public interest, I have not heard or seen any documentation of existing or prior public harm that has directly or indirectly resulted from the work of a Interior Designer.

A minority of states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have similar laws in place, which begs the question, "If a majority of states in the country do not believe this segment of the industry needs regulation, why is it so necessary for Alaska to create this additional barrier to the building planning process?"

Under an amendment to **Sec. 15. [AS 08.48.221](#)**(a), the law seeks to capture, regulate, and take the existing rights of interior designers and paraprofessionals and business owners providing overlapping services the right to, "design work of minor importance."

The law is vague, overly broad and potentially overreaching in its use of the terms, "[interior technical submissions](#)" and "[professional services of creative work](#)," as stated in the proposed additions to \* **Sec. 32. [AS 08.48.341](#)**.

- (24) "interior technical submissions" means
  - (A) the designs, drawings, and specifications that establish the scope of the interior design to be constructed and the standard of quality for materials, work, equipment,

and construction systems; and (B) the studies and other technical reports and calculations prepared in the course of the practice of registered interior design;

This definition raises threshold concerns regarding how many and to what extent each of the listed activities when measured in part or combination of service delivery constitute "Interior Technical Submissions" vs. "other" individual services as defined in \* **Sec. 29. AS 08.48.331(a) --(8)** "a person, **other than a person providing interior design services.**"

SB 73 would require current Alaskan Interior Designers or those providing overlapping services listed within the new practice definition to sit for an exam administered by the Council for Interior Design Qualification and to be approved by the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors, or under amended law and statute face civil fines, criminal charges and imprisonment. ( \* **Sec. 26. AS 08.48.295(a)**), (**Sec. 08.48.291. Violations and penalties.**)

**While a few supporters have cited federal contract requirements as a motive for supporting establishment of this law, no one has defined specific examples of public harm for the reason behind this bill.**

**Please don't pass this bill in its current form and criminalize existing business owners, to benefit a small number of vendors wishing to work on federal projects, while artificially restricting designer supply for non-federal projects.**

**In closing it is noteworthy that:**

- At the writing of this submission no Fiscal Note has been published defining the additional costs associated with regulating this profession
- No documentation has been provided showing how this regulation will benefit the consumer, nor have there been any documents projecting the actual industry cost of regulating design practice or what that will do to the broader construction industry.
- The law would require current Alaskan designer's to sit for an exam administered by the Council for Interior Design Qualification. So far documentation defining the Council for Interior Design Qualification and its testing authority and certification, nor any related documentation from the American Society of Interior Designers, has been published by the legislature for public or industry consideration and feedback heading into the hearing scheduled for today (4/12/23).

**I appreciate your consideration and time.**

**Sincerely,**



**Jason Floyd, President**

**FLOYD.ultd, LLC**

**"Moving Good**

**Ideas *FORWARD!*"**

**907-831-6003**

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Lucas Smith <lucas.smith28@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Board of AELS (CED sponsored)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony, SB73

Dear Senate Labor & Commerce Committee Members:

In today's testimony on SB73 we heard how interior designers in other states undergo education, experience, and examination to secure their license to practice independently from licensed architects. We also heard how interior design is professional work that falls completely within the scope of work associated with licensed architects. Frankly, the need to designate a special class of design professional that simply performs a limited scope of architectural work escapes me.

First, I reject the assertion that interior design, as it is familiarly performed, warrants the need for a license. Despite being a profession that may involve aspects of public health and safety, such work does not and should not rise to a health and safety threshold at the level of specialized engineering or architecture. Thus, the interior design profession does not warrant inclusion with the professions of engineering, architecture, and land surveying. Simply put, interior designers should not be lumped in with the professional licensing of engineering, architecture, and land surveying as the bill proposes to identify collectively as "Design Professionals". Instead, the familiar work performed by certified interior designers should be recognized as work that may be performed independent of a licensed architect, and without the proposed license requirement.

Second, as the sponsor cited in his testimony, I reject the premise of the argument that, because the Corps of Engineers has specified the need for a registered interior designer in a recent project, Alaska is in turn obligated to create a state mechanism for interior design licensure. The specification for a registered professional interior designer could easily be viewed as an oversight on behalf of the Corps of Engineers, as it is the prerogative of Alaskans to determine what professions do or do not require licensure, not the federal government, its agencies, or its contractors. For example, today in Alaska it is without question that only licensed architects and licensed engineers perform certain work. However, certainly it is possible that one day the people of Alaska may decide that requirement is no longer desired, is no longer necessary, or is otherwise not in the state's best interest – and still, even if engineering and architecture remain recognized as professions that could continue serving the general health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Lastly, the bill sponsor believes licensure and increased licensing is an avenue for opportunity and growth. Many others, including myself, would argue the opposite. Instead of seeking licensure, the certified interior designers of Alaska should argue that the Corps of Engineers' requirement for a registered professional interior designer licensee is invalid. The legislature's action, the board's action, or their coordinated actions to call out interior design as professional work which does not warrant licensure in the state of Alaska should aid the defense of this argument.

If we take the licensing of interior designers, as this bill proposes, and extrapolate its approach to the professions of civil engineering and land surveying, we can see how this approach will set a precedent for making a mess of professional licensing as we know it, as well as the significance of what it means to work in a profession that warrants licensing and to practice professional level work as a duly licensed professional.

If it is subsequently determined that the scope of interior design work is inseparable from the encompassing work of professional architecture, then perhaps the work of certified interior designers should remain a profession performed wholly under the supervision of licensed architects.

Please do not pass SB73 out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lucas Smith, P.E.  
AELC14591

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** drtrom@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Sen. Robert Myers  
**Subject:** SB73-Vote NO

Dear committee,

Please vote "NO" to require licensing for Interior Decorators to work. Alaska state laws continues to make holding down employment a struggle for those who want to work.

Kindly,

Rita Trometter

North Pole

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



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April 19, 2023

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov  
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov  
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov  
Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov  
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov  
Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

**Re: Clarification of Testimonies for SB 73: An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design**

Dear Senators,

AIA Alaska is taking this opportunity to clarify some points presented during invited and public testimony of SB 73 on 4/12/2023. Registering interior designers is a complicated subject and some terms and examples were not factually stated. AIA Alaska has provided the following clarifications.

In Senator Claman's opening statement he mentioned the US Army Corps of Engineers RFP JBE88 Joint Integrated Test and Training Center at JBER, Alaska. One of the requirements in this RFP listed a "registered interior designer." Senator Claman stated that without this legislature responsive bidders have to contract registered interior designers outside the state of Alaska.

- This 'registered' requirement is standard federal agency boiler plate language that is often updated by amendments. The Department of Homeland Security and US Coast Guard currently have Request for Proposals (RFPs) out for an Offshore Patrol Cutters and Fast Response Cutter at Kodiak, Alaska. The requirement for a 'registered' interior designer was removed in amendment #7 of this solicitation. Frequently in the RFP, the government has been clarifying, that 'registered' interior designer means that anyone with NCIDQ certification may propose to work on the federal agency project. You do not need to be 'registered' (this is a term that usually corresponds with state licensing to practice) to be part of the project. This is reasonable since only 2 states register Interior Designers to practice. There is nothing preventing the 21 Alaskan NCIDQ certified designers from working on federal projects in Alaska (or elsewhere). As was mentioned in several of the interior designers' testimonies, they already provide interior design services to federal agencies across the state so SB73 is not needed to allow this work to continue.

- After Casey Kee's invited testimony a committee member asked if interior designers receive training on health, safety & welfare aspects of design. Ms. Kee's response was that some certified interior designers receive a 4-year degree and then take 3 tests on interior design while architects only take 5 tests and only one of these test is on interior design. Per <https://www.cidq.org> website as little as 60 credit hours is required to sit for the NCIDQ certification exams. Architects have a much more rigorous education requiring a professional degree that is at least a five-year Bachelor's Degree; many obtain a Master's Degree. Architects must pass a 6-part exam that includes 4.5 hours of testing specific to building codes and life safety regulations. Health, safety, and welfare and interior design are integrated throughout all 6 architectural exams that totals 20 hours.



- Invited and public testimony varied in noting how many jurisdictions regulate interior design. **See attached map.** 27 states regulate with a “Title Act” that distinguishes the advanced education, experience, and examination of some interior designers from others. Title acts do **not** limit the practice of interior design to a group of specific people. SB 73, however, **does** limit the practice of interior design to only those that are NCIDQ qualified. Only **two states** in the US currently regulate the practice of interior design in a manner that is similar to the “Practice Act” that is proposed: Louisiana and Nevada. **22 states do not regulate interior design.**
- In CB Bettisworth’s written and invited testimonies he stated that the American Institute of Architects (AIA) does not have a position on this bill or matters of interior design licensing at the state level. This is incorrect, AIA National makes clear their policies, has reviewed this specific bill, and determined it to be the most restrictive version they have seen proposed in any state, and accordingly supports its local accredited AIA Alaska chapter in efforts to oppose this bill. While several bills in other states have been adopted since adoption of the current AIA policy, they are all ‘Title Acts’ that in no way increased the restrictions on who can provide interior design services or reduced the restrictions on who can design the fire/life-safety elements of any buildings.
- Several people invited to testify stated that this bill will not prevent anyone from doing the work they are currently doing, however section (29) 08.48.331 (a)(8) of the bill makes changes that would restrict all interior design work to regulated practice, even if no impact to life safety, structure, or Health-Safety-and-Welfare (HSW) are determined to exist by the Licensing Board. Some people testifying suggested that interior designers not able or willing to become licensed could work under a NCIDQ interior designer or Architect to do this work, however this does not resolve the cost implication inherent in this new rule and is similar to the argument being rejected by interior designers that if they want to do work that is restricted to architects that they would work under an architect or get an architecture license. Removal of this provision was agreed to by all participants of the 3/31 working group meeting but the changes are not yet reflected in the bill.

We hope these clarifications help you understand that there are several ways to regulate interior design in Alaska if the legislature feels this is appropriate. The Alaska Chapter of AIA **opposes SB73 and its companion bill HB159** in their current forms. We would not oppose a Title Act.

Please contact me if we can provide additional information or clarification on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Cederberg, AIA". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Cederberg, AIA  
AIA Alaska Chapter President Elect





*Alder*  
*Architecture and Design, LLC*  
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Palmer, Alaska 99645  
(907) 745-ALDER (2537)  
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April 11, 2023

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov  
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov  
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov  
Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov  
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov  
Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Re: **Opposition to SB 73** An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design

Dear Senators,

As an AIA Alaska Member, an Alaska Resident, and a Registered Architect in the State of Alaska for the past 16 years, I am writing **OPPOSITION** of Senate Bill 73.

I am the sole owner and Architect of Alder Architecture & Design, LLC. I live in Wasilla and my office is located in Palmer. I hire many local high school students to assist with drafting, as well as train full time staff in this profession. My office currently has 8 employees, including myself. I oversee all projects directly and conduct all design work, including interior design. Most of our projects are small, many are remodels and tenant improvements. We don't design big schools or hospitals, due to our size. Our workload mostly consists of light commercial and custom residential. Our projects span across the state with many in the Matsu Valley and other rural areas. Now and then in Anchorage.

There is no evidence that SB73 is necessary for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public –there exists no problem to solve. This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would **not protect the consumer or increase public safety**. In fact, it will limit consumer choices in selecting interior designers because SB73 restricts the practice to only those persons who have advanced education and experience and have passed an examination. There are fewer than 25 people in Alaska who hold this credential.

As an architect, my work integrates many different interior and exterior systems to form a full building. Architects are typically the prime consultant for building projects, and responsible for the life-safety analysis documents, as well as the coordination of all sub-consultant disciplines. Interior design is limited to arranging interior spaces and choosing materials that are non-structural and are not substantively part of the building's overall life safety. I value the expertise of interior designers, as well as many other specialists who contribute to building designs, but they should not lead life-safety related projects, especially those with multiple disciplines like mechanical or electrical engineering.

Another point I would like to make, my firm is a small firm. We provide a full service to our clients. Often, we hire specialists, such as the various disciplines of engineers, for our contracts. In the contracts, the architect provides design, project management, interior design, AND the life safety. As a small firm, I, the sole architect in our firm, do the interior designs. If we are not allowed to practice as we are now and are required to hire one of the few 25 interior designers in the state, our small projects would not be

profitable or be able to be completed in a timely manner. This will take fees away from our small firm regarding tasks we are perfectly able to perform and have been trained in.

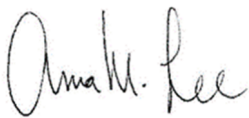
If SB73 moves forward, I offer the following comments and suggestions:

- I support limiting Interior Design scope of practice to non-life-safety elements. I oppose allowing any life-safety and code analysis drawings to be stamped by Interior Designers for building permits.
- I oppose Sec. 29 that modifies (a) 8 of AS 08.48.331. The existing statute allowing anyone to alter or repair a building if the work does not impact HSW should remain.
- I oppose Sec 29 that adds (15) to AS 08.48.331 (a). This is redundant and confusing. There is no need to specifically call out persons who design kitchen and bath services, as anyone is already allowed certain exemptions in this section.
- I oppose the cost of developing Interior Design regulations being passed on to existing AELS Board licensees. The costs should be borne by the affected Interior Design licensees.
- I oppose limiting interior designs to just licensed interior designers when Architects are trained in the same practice, plus so much more. Architects should be allowed to do interior design, especially as a small firm and not be forced to subcontract that service. By having to hire another consultant for interiors, this will reduce any profit on our small projects.

Only two states in the US currently regulate the practice of interior design in a manner that is similar to the "Practice Act" that is proposed in SB73: Louisiana and Nevada. Approximately 27 states allow Interior Designers to hold a Title that distinguishes their advanced education, experience, and examination from others. I am not opposed to a similar regulation for Alaska, if the legislature feels that some type of regulation is needed and it does not restrict the practice of interior design to those without advanced credentials.

**Based on the above comments I urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 73.**

Sincerely,



cc: [Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov)  
[Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)  
[Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)  
[Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov)  
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[Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)

and AIA Lobbyist [dianneblumer@gmail.com](mailto:dianneblumer@gmail.com)



April 11, 2023

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Via email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov  
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov  
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov  
Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov  
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov  
Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Re: **Opposition to SB 73** An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design

Dear Senators,

As an Alaska Resident, AIA Alaska Member (and former board member), and a Registered Architect in the State of Alaska for the past 25 years, I am writing to you in **OPPOSITION** of Senate Bill 73.

There is no evidence that SB73 is necessary for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public, as there no problem that needs solving. This proposed legislation is unnecessary, confusing, and would **not protect the consumer or increase public safety**. In fact, it will limit consumer choices in selecting interior designers because SB73 restricts the practice to only those persons who have advanced education and experience, and have passed an examination. There are fewer than 25 people in Alaska who hold this credential, but many more that engage in the business of interior design.

As an architect, my work integrates many different interior and exterior systems to form a full building. Architects are typically the prime consultant for building projects, and responsible for the life-safety analysis documents, as well as the coordination of all sub-consultant disciplines. Interior design is limited to arranging interior spaces and choosing materials that are non-structural and are not substantively part of the building's overall life safety. While I value the expertise of interior designers, as well as many other specialists who contribute to building designs, they should not lead life-safety related projects, especially those with multiple disciplines like mechanical or electrical engineering.

If SB73 moves forward, I offer the following comments and suggestions:

- I support limiting Interior Design scope of practice to non-life-safety elements. I oppose allowing any life-safety and code analysis drawings to be stamped by Interior Designers for building permits.
- I oppose Sec. 29 that modifies (a) 8 of AS 08.48.331. The existing statute allowing anyone to alter or repair a building if the work does not impact HSW should remain.
- I oppose Sec 29 that adds (15) to AS 08.48.331 (a). This is redundant and confusing. There is no need to specifically call out persons who design kitchen and bath services, as anyone is already allowed certain exemptions in this section.

- I oppose the cost of developing Interior Design regulations being passed on to existing AELS Board licensees. The costs should be borne by the affected Interior Design licensees.

Only two states in the US currently regulate the practice of interior design in a manner that is similar to the "Practice Act" that is proposed in SB73: Louisiana and Nevada. Approximately 27 states allow Interior Designers to hold a Title that distinguishes their advanced education, experience, and examination from others. I am not opposed to a similar regulation for Alaska, if the legislature feels that some type of regulation is needed and it does not restrict the practice of interior design to those without advanced credentials.

**Based on the above comments I urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 73.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Blumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

cc: [dianneblumer@gmail.com](mailto:dianneblumer@gmail.com)

April 11, 2023

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov  
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov  
Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov  
Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov  
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov  
Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Re: **Opposition to SB 73** An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design

Dear Senators,

As a resident of Alaska, an AIA Alaska Member and a Registered Architect in the State of Alaska for the past 6 years, I am writing **OPPOSITION** of Senate Bill 73.

My concern with writing this legislation into law is that I do not see a need for interior design to be added into the State's list of regulations. The current registrations and statutes that are required by the SOA cover the health, life-safety, and welfare (HSW) aspects of the design, development and construction of buildings and the renovations of spaces within buildings at affect HSW.

I am also concerned with the level of regulation that this may cause, making it difficult for building owners and occupants to make small interior changes to their facilities. The hurdles that are required for many changes and major renovations are already difficult, time consuming and costly to building owners and occupants. Adding more complexity with the requirement of a registered interior designer may be prohibitive to smaller interior only projects.

The definition outlined in section 32. AS 08.48.341 for 'interior design' is almost duplicative of the definition of 'practice of architecture' with the addition of 'interior' into the documentation. This again emphasizes to me that the state already has this covered in the legislation for the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. Interior Design is a part of Architectural design. While they may be separated out in some instances, part of being an Architect is also doing interior design.

I do however see a need to identify, acknowledge, and separate the professionals who are registered Interior Designers with other design professions that do not go through the rigorous requirements that NCIDQ registered Interior Designers have to go through. This is a valid profession, and the importance of it is valued. Adding this registration to the list of registrations for the SOA is not the best way to do this. The federal government provides RFPs that request the design team have a NCIDQ individual on the team. I think this is a great way of separating the registered interior professionals from unregistered interior designers.

**Based on the above comments I urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 73.**

Sincerely,



Michelle Klouda, AIA NCARB