

February 27, 2014

To: Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Smith, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Sub-Committee on General Government

From: Ellen M Cusick, NCIDQ, IIDA- EMC Interior Design, llc

RE: SB 1521A Public Hearing

Thank you committee members, for the opportunity to testify regarding the importance of senate bill 1521A to students in Oregon.

My name is Ellen Cusick; I am have been practicing Interior Design for 15 years and have been an educator for 12 years. My practice is focused on both residential and commercial interiors and I teach at Portland Community College and the Art Institute of Portland. I am a graduate of the Art institute, an NCIDQ certificate holder (#020947) and a member of IIDA.

According to the NCIDQ website, "*The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology—including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process—to satisfy the needs and resources of the client.*"¹ As educators we provide the means for students to execute careful research & analysis on life-like design problems and to use their findings to solve those problems creatively while adhering to local building codes and ADA requirements. Our students are thoroughly educated in building systems, building codes, and the designer's responsibility to clients, the environment and end users.

At each of the colleges in the state the students pay tuition, in some cases upwards of \$80,000, and many of them relying on student loans. It is vital for these students to be able to use their degrees in their chosen fields to repay those loans and to make a living in Oregon.

We believe that establishing a work group is a welcome and necessary step to determining a solution to help our students have viable careers in this state. The make-up of the work group allows for all stakeholders to have a voice and to help shape the future of what it means to be a registered or certified Interior Designer in Oregon. We look forward to working with our colleagues on creating the best possible solution for current and future commercial Interior Designers.

As an educator I strongly encourage you to pass this bill in order to allow us to devise the best possible solution regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Ellen M Cusick, NCIDQ, IIDA

1. <http://www.ncidq.org/AboutUs/AboutInteriorDesign/DifferencesBetweenInteriorDesignDecorating.aspx>