



February 3, 2017

TO: House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Chair, Representative Ann Lininger
Vice-Chair, Representative Pam Marsh
Vice-Chair, Representative David Brock Smith

CC: Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Representative Brian Clem
Representative David Gomberg
Representative Ken Helm
Representative Andy Olson
Representative Bill Post
Representative E. Werner Reschke

FROM: Karen Bowery

RE: HB 2153 Letter of Support

Dear Representatives Ann Lininger, Pam Marsh, and David Brock Smith,

As Principal in Charge of Interiors at Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects, I would like to unequivocally offer support to regulating the Interior Design Profession through a Practice Act. I have been practicing for 34 years and can attest to the fact that the discerning qualifications for those individuals providing Interior Design services are confusing and misleading to the general public. While the school of hard knocks is one way that we all learn, it should not be at the expense and lack of protection for the public. A simple failure to not understand the International Building Code in terms of railing heights and spacing could make a difference or lead to an unfortunate accident.

At AMA the collaboration of Interiors to architects is seamless. Often an Interior Designer is responsible for **everything** within the core and shell walls of a building. That work would involve drawing plans that comply to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Fair Housing. While there is an International Building Code, every jurisdiction has amendments thus making planning a continuous learning experience. What works in one jurisdiction may not work in another. One of those code requirements refers to Fire Life Safety and exiting. When planning, a conference room the number of exits is directly regulated by the number of occupants. When drawing restrooms, the number of plumbing fixtures per sex is dictated by the occupancy. The appropriateness of a tile in a lobby or around a pool is that it meets the proper slip coefficient rating. Knowing the codes is vital to the practice of Interior Design and not all calling themselves Interior Designers have this knowledge.

In terms of being good stewards of the earth, it is imperative to know the technical aspects of every product, whether there are any harmful aspects either from off-gassing and/or does the fabrication or assembly of such products deplete man or earth in anyway. The technical knowledge that an interior designer must know is vast and ever changing. We have a responsibility to affect our environment by what we specify.

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Once we have the perfect building that meets the goals and aspirations of the client; that is compliant with all regulatory requirements; is eco-effective in the materials which make up the architecture, there are the furnishings to consider. Selecting and specifying ergonomic furnishings that are adaptable to each person's uniqueness in terms of body, preference of working style, etc. is important. It means the difference in keeping healthy and productive. There are a lot of people suffering from working with furnishings that do not support what they do and the long-term consequences from that are health problems of all forms.

Interior Design is powerful. We not only make beautiful spaces that affect the livelihood of all those that inhabit them but we also provide environments that protect their health, safety and welfare. Qualifications must be in place for all individuals in any profession that directly protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Now is the time to recognize and legalize the practice of Interior Design. If I can address or answer any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Karen Bowery
Principal of Interiors, IIDA Leed AP



(Signature)