

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been a practicing Interior Designer in the State of Oregon since 2006. I have design, detailed and helped build every type of space for members of our community over the last 20 years from hotels, restaurants, Universities, health clinics, Workplaces and Public and Government buildings. Creating great experiences for people in these spaces is very important. But more importantly is the impact my work has on creating a healthy and safe environment for every person who uses these spaces.

- In my every day line of work, I am required to know and apply the same building codes as my architectural counterparts. The correct application of these codes is essential to helping people safely move through buildings on a normal day, but critical for life and safety in the event of an emergency.
- I am responsible for researching and continuously learning about the health and safety impacts of the thousands of materials we select and specify on a project. These things can have serious and direct impacts to consumers when they touch them, or breath in the off gassing from them during use. They can also have a significant impact to the workers who install them and remove them at the end of their lives, and the emergency personnel, like firefighters who may come into contact with them in a situation where they are burning. All of this may sound alarmist, but its not. The impact of healthy materials is sometimes invisible to sight, but found in the health records of people who were continuously exposed to products that did not meet rigorous testing and declared certification by trusted sources.
- I am responsible for upholding the laws related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some may believe the ADA is only relevant to a specific group of people, but the reality is that those laws are intended to make public access to space better for everyone. And at any time in a persons life, they may need access to accommodations that take into account variable mobility, visual or auditory assistance.

The above examples are just a fraction of the responsibilities that I have as a commercial interior designer, but they are some of the responsibilities that I take the most professional pride in, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the members of the public.

I work alongside of Architects every day. We perform very different roles in our

project capacities. I need them to do my work, and they need me to perform theirs. However, the ceiling for my architectural peers will always be higher than mine because there is currently, legally no path to licensure for me in the State of Oregon. While I have the luxury of working in a firm of Architects who can legally stamp my work, the inability for Interior Designers to stamp their own work, creates significant burdens and barriers to smaller organizations and independent designers who must pay a licensed architect to provide permit stamps for their drawings. This demographically has an outsized impact on women and small businesses.

It's time for Oregon to join the rest of our esteemed design colleagues across the United States in recognizing the value of Interior Designers in the building industry by providing a path to licensure. The International Interior Design Association has been pursuing licensure for as long as I have been a designer and we have never tired of asking for this recognition because know the deep and important value we bring to the design community and most importantly to the members of the public who are exposed to our work every single day. I support House Bill 2141-1.

Thank you,

Carissa Mylin
SERA Architects