
From: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Rearick, Richard
Cc: Helen Phillips
Subject: RE: HB 61

Richard,

Thank you for voicing your opposition to HB61. I appreciate knowing your thoughts and will keep them in mind as we move forward.

Your message will be included in members' bill packets.

Best,
Kelly

From: Rearick, Richard <richard.rearick@UICCS.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 61

Dear Representative Foster,

I am a licensed architect from Eagle River, Alaska. I do not support HB61. Please refer to the attached letter.

Respectfully,

RICHARD REARICK, AIA, NCARB

Architecture Manager | **UMIAQ Design, LLC**

6700 Arctic Spur Road

Anchorage, Alaska 99518

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A Member of the Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation Family of Companies

From: Barbara Cash [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2022 6:00 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Rep. Matt Claman; Representative.Harriett.Drummond@akleg.gov
Subject: HB61 Hearing Follow-up

Dear House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the hearing and discussion on House Bill 61 last Thursday, 4/21/22. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for registration of commercial interior designers to benefit Alaska.

I now urge you to take action based on testimony heard, move to a vote and pass HB61

HB61

Ensures safer buildings, establishing registration for Alaska interior designers educated and qualified in public life-safety design to apply codes, standards and regulations for buildings of public occupancy.

Responds to Alaska's workforce crisis, increasing the professional workforce to meet impending capital projects design needs, attracting qualified designers and Alaska design students studying outside to return to Alaska for professional career and business opportunities.

Eliminates unnecessary costs, allowing registered commercial interior designers to stamp and take responsibility for their own work, eliminating duplicative architectural oversight and stamping costs.

Does not apply to architects, nor (per statute exemption) to interior designers of single family to 4-plex residences, or those working under supervision of a registered commercial interior designer or architect.

Please take HB61 to a vote in favor of ensuring safer buildings, expanding Alaska's professional workforce, and welcoming healthy competition in a small sector of the design industry.

Respectfully,

Barbara Cash, FASID, NCIDQ, LEED AP
[REDACTED]

From: Lynn Barrett (Falkbuilt Anchorage) <lynn.barrett@falkbuilt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Support HB 61 Professional Registration for Commercial Interior Designers

House Finance Committee

Dear Representative Merrick, Co-Chair

- My name is Lynn Barrett, I'm a third generation Alaskan and have lived in Anchorage 60 years working as a professional interior designer and specialize in sustainable interior construction. Commercial interior designers are educated, trained, and tested in life-safety design for public occupancy buildings, with focused expertise in functional space planning, finish material flammability, smoke density and toxicity characteristics to name a few.

I strongly support HB 61 and here's why:

HB 61 Protects Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

- Commercial interior designers of public-occupancy buildings impact public health, safety and welfare in most aspects of their work, and are qualified through education, experience, and passing a national examination to do so, as are other registered design professionals.
- HB 61 establishes registration for commercial interior designers to ensure those providing the limited scope of work defined in HB 61 are qualified to protect public safety and allows registered commercial interior designers to stamp and submit their non-structural construction documents for permit, taking responsibility for their own work.

HB 61 Registration for Commercial Interior Designers

- Is voluntary: non-registered interior designers may work in the residential field (single to 4-plex), or the commercial field under a registered commercial interior designer or architect
- Is compatible with all design professions; architects are exempt from this registration
- Is to be self-funded through the existing AELS Registration Board fee structure

HB 61 Benefits Alaskans

- Increases professional employment and salary opportunities, retaining high-quality design talent in the state, attracting new talent, and helping reduce the professional "workforce gap"
- Expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals; encourages small business
- Encourages those earning interior design degrees "outside" to return home for professional registration, and hiring Alaskans instead of "outside experts" for professional interior design

Public safety protection through effective COVID-19 response. Commercial interior Designers are at the forefront, developing new strategies to implement essential infection mitigation and control in public spaces, and surface/material cleaning-disinfecting protocol for durability and occupant safety.

Please support HB 61 Registration for Commercial Interior Designers to protect public safety, expand consumer choice of qualified design professionals, advance infection mitigation in public spaces, and bring economic benefits to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Lynn Barrett, ASID, LEED AP, WELL AP

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Informational video: [What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do?](#)

Thank you very much for hearing the bill and **please vote in favor of HB61!**



SEATTLE and
ANCHORAGE

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From: Dana Nunn <dnunn@bettisworthnorth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Support House Bill 61

Dear Representative Merrick,

I am an Alaska resident and practicing interior designer. As a member of the design profession, I'm writing to **ask for your support of House Bill 61: REGISTER COMMERCIAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS.**

My entire professional career has been in the commercial interior design world. That means I work in environments impacting the public including daycares and schools, urban and rural hospitals and clinics, senior living and Pioneer homes, museums and performing arts facilities, courthouses, public safety facilities, corrections facilities, hotels, barracks, hangars, churches, restaurants, a range of retail outlets, apartments, public housing, and athletic facilities. I have provided standalone interior design services and contributed my expertise as a member of interdisciplinary teams. I have also served as project manager for interior design and larger interdisciplinary projects, coordinating the work of multiple disciplines to achieve successful, safe, and code-compliant projects for Alaska's communities.

In my everyday practice, I apply the knowledge and expertise I've developed through my education, experience, and ongoing professional development that I undertake to maintain my NCIDQ certification and ensure currency with adopted regulations and guidelines and accepted best practices. In my projects, I:

- Analyze program requirements to develop a functional layout of spaces and amenities
- Locate and specify fire, smoke, and acoustical separations in accordance with building, fire, and life safety codes and sustainable design regulations
- Establish compliant means of egress from interior spaces in accordance with building, fire, and life safety codes
- Review and adjust the plans to ensure accessibility and usability of interior spaces and features in accordance with federal regulation, building codes, and accessibility guidelines
- Select materials in compliance with building, fire, and life safety codes, considering such factors as fire and smoke propensity (flooring, wall coverings, ceilings, furnishings), toxicity (casework, paints), impact resistance (glass, wall protection), slip resistance (flooring), and infection control strategies (surface material compatibility with cleaning and disinfection)
- Specify anchorage and lateral bracing for seismic resistance of interior components such as suspended acoustical ceilings, wall-hung casework, and tall freestanding elements prone to tipping
- Coordinate with consulting engineers for integration of mechanical, electrical, communication, and plumbing systems

Sometimes, I serve as interior designer and project manager, which means I am responsible for the interior design scope as well as for scope and schedule management, interdisciplinary coordination (all design and engineering disciplines, including architecture), quality control reviews of the contract documents as well as construction administration duties.

The lack of professional registration for interior designers in Alaska means that although I am highly qualified and experienced to design interior environments intended for public occupancy, I am not allowed to complete my work independently or take responsibility for my own work. As it stands, all of what I describe above is

completed under architect oversight. When a project is required to be stamped and sealed for plan review and permitting, an architect overstates my work.

HB 61 establishes registration for the practice of commercial interior design, which will ultimately result in safer spaces and interior environments for the public. Registration of commercial interior designers is **critical to public health, safety, and welfare** in our state, and I'm passionate about policy that advances these protections. HB 61 also **increases consumer choice** for design services, entices qualified practitioners to work in our state, reduces project times, and **expands the business opportunities** for small-business interior designers and firms, most of which are **women-owned**.

To be clear, this bill will *not* allow interior designers to practice as architects or engineers nor will HB 61 negatively impact public safety. HB 61 instead **establishes clear practice rights** for interior designers within the design profession, which allows for **greater accountability for practitioners** within the built environment.

Certified commercial interior designers undergo **years of formal education** and **supervised experience-based training** before they may sit for the nationally-recognized, 11-hour NCIDQ Exam – an exam that comprehensively tests on whole building design and occupant life-safety. Interior designers are **knowledgeable in areas essential to public safety and protection**, including building codes, fire protection, and fire safety.

Certified commercial interior designers are qualified and prepared to protect the public through responsible, autonomous interior design practice. The ability for interior designers to independently stamp and seal their work is allowed in 14 states and 2 federal jurisdictions currently, with Wisconsin passing legislation earlier this year.

Because this bill will greatly benefit Alaska residents and the state economy, **please support House Bill 61**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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**BETTISWORTH
NORTH**



NCIDQ #210251

Texas Registered Interior Designer #10787

ASID Alaska Government Affairs Committee Co-chair

CIDA Site Visitor Volunteer for Interior Design Accreditation

Interior Designers of Canada Affiliate Member

Illuminating Engineering Society Member

Center for Health Design Affiliate Member

April 25, 2022

State of Alaska

House Finance Committee: Support HB-61

Dear Representative Merrick,

Thank you for holding the HB61 hearing on April 21, 2022.

I appreciate that you invited all concerned individuals to express their opinion regarding the significance of HB61.

Specifically, **thank you for hearing my testimony in favor of this important legislation.** Requiring Commercial Interior Designers who practice in Alaska to be registered and liable for their work.

HB61 will result in safer buildings in Alaska!

As an Architect, I want/need to have the option to include expert Interior Designers in our projects who are registered professionals, stamping their own work. HB61 accomplishes this.

Also, **HB61 will bring additional competition to our Architect/Engineer/Construction industry.** More competition is good for business, good for the public, and good for us all.

Please pass HB61.

Larry S Cash, FAIA, NCARB

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska 99517

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]