

January 19, 2024

To: The Honorable Jesse Sumner, Chair
House Labor & Commerce

CC: House Labor & Commerce Members

I am asking for your support of HB 159, Professional Registration for Interior Designers

Simply put, HB 159 Registration for interior designers will:

- Allow non-registered interior designers to practice as they have in the past.
- Increase consumer choice of qualified design professionals and encourage small businesses.
- Incorporate all design professions impacting Health, Safety and Welfare into one board.
- Allow registered interior designers to take responsibility for their own work by stamping for interior, non-bearing, construction documents for permit.
- Attract high-quality design talent Alaska, helping reduce the professional workforce shortage.

It is time for Alaska to establish professional registration for interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination, to practice independently, with stamp and seal privileges, within a limited scope of work for which they are specifically trained and tested to do.

HB 159 will create reasonable regulation to protect public health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans.

Interior designers who are qualified through accredited education, experience and examination through the internationally recognized 3-part NCIDQ certification exam are well-qualified to:

- Understand, develop and execute interior technical submissions including plans, specifications and contract documents complying with applicable codes, regulations, and guidelines and to coordinate with other engineering professions to provide a complete construction package.

The interiors design scope of work includes the design of interior non-bearing wall and ceiling configurations: occupancy class determination, occupant load analysis, exit analysis including number and location of internal exits/exit access, path of travel distance/clear width, and accessibility.

Interior designers are uniquely qualified to specify interior materials, furnishings, and fixtures, which require knowledge of accessibility and egress clearances, infection mitigation and control, combustibility, flame spread, smoke propagation, material toxicity, and slip resistance.

Please support HB 159 Registration for Interior Designers to protect public safety, increase consumer choice, and bring economic benefits to Alaska and make the Alaskan design community stronger.

Sincerely,



Mary G Knopf, FASID, NCIDQ

9401 Arlene Dr

Anchorage, AK 99502