



21 May 2018

The Honorable Dorothy Pelanda, District 86
77 S. High St.
14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Pelanda,

The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) supports HB 504 which would establish permissive certification of Ohio's educated and qualified Interior Design profession governed under the already established Board of Building Standards regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce. Thank you for your leadership and work on this important legislation.

Currently Ohio does not regulate the profession of interior design at the state level, preventing interior designers from fully competing in the marketplace. HB 504 would establish the right to voluntarily obtain practice rights in the State of Ohio and allow interior designers to freely practice their fullest capabilities through defined permit authority.

The bill, which applies to nonresidential buildings, correctly allows a certified interior designer to prepare a plan or the specifications for, or the supervision of, the new construction, alteration, or repair of an interior space within a building when the core and shell structural elements of the building are not going to be changed and when such work takes place independent of an architect. Passage of HB 504 creates efficiencies, increases consumer choice and generates cost savings by allowing a certified interior designer the autonomy to stamp and seal their own interior design drawings.

An interior designer secures the health, wellness, and public safety for building occupants. From materials selection to sketching the space layout, interior designers are experts on designing to comply with government mandated fire, accessibility, and other commercial and residential building codes. Interior designers make a major and lasting impact on the lives of the people who use the interior space.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 504 which will lead to increased competition in the marketplace and remove barriers created by an outdated, overly broad, and under-inclusive state statute.

Sincerely,

Susan Wiggins, Sr. Strategic Advisor
ASID | American Society of Interior Designers