



Chealyn Jackson
House Bill 492 Proponent testimony
House State and Local Government Committee
May 24, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chairman Hambley, Ranking Minority Member Holmes and members of the committee, I am Chealyn Jackson and I am the Columbus city center Advocacy Coordinator for the Ohio Kentucky Chapter of the International Interior Design Association. The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is the Commercial Interior Design Association with a global reach. We support design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through our network of 15,000+ members across 58 countries, including hundreds in Ohio. We advocate for advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to increase the value and understanding of Interior Design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well-being of people's lives every day.

IIDA is proud to support House Bill 492 as an effort to create a women's business enterprise (WBE) certification program in Ohio. Interior design is a female dominated industry as nearly 90% of all interior designers are women. Women owned businesses are the cornerstone of our membership and are demonstrated to interior design students as a career option to pursue in this state. As you can imagine there are interior design functions that are a part of state government contracts affecting state-owned properties. Examples of interior design projects in government contracts are courthouses, government-owned hospitals, government building lobbies, etc. Interior design is a unique work function that does not require a nexus of a business to be located in the state in

which a contract is being offered. While there may be minimal travel to do a site visit to the contract location, the designer is not necessarily required to be on-site regularly. Ohio designers commonly work on projects in other states and are successful in their business ventures creating designs in this manner.

Passage of House Bill 492 and the creation of the WBE certification process at the Department of Administrative Services will allow our members to be eligible to bid on government contracts in the interior design space in other states because we will have the necessary reciprocity to do so. As government funds become tighter nationwide, we look to be able to provide cost effective, quality services at competitive prices. However, we need to be able to initially compete for the work; House Bill 492 addresses this issue.

Chair Anielski and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 492. IIDA urges favorable consideration of the bill.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chealy Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".