

TESTIMONY
of Louise Budde, CMKBD
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Ohio House Bill B 504:
for House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2018
1:30 PM

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, and Representative Pelanda, my name is Louise Budde. I am here today to speak in opposition to House Bill 504 as it is currently written. However, I do request that the bill be amended to clarify the sponsor, Rep. Pelanda's intention to exempt kitchen and bath designers from the bill provisions.

I am a Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer here in the Columbus area. This certification, offered by the National Kitchen and Bath Association, is a reflection of my many years of experience and coursework as well as passing a series of rigorous examinations.

I have over thirty years of experience in my profession, and I am the owner of a small, one-woman kitchen and bath design company. While I do not have any employees other than myself, my design work results in the use of multiple other companies and employers, both large and small, including general contractors, specialty contractors, equipment dealers and other retailers.

While my design work is primarily focused on kitchen and bath spaces used for residential purposes, it also includes the design of kitchen and bath spaces in small commercial use spaces, such as office break-rooms.

Some design work is related to new construction, while some of my work is related to kitchen and bath remodeling projects. Some of you may have already used the services of a kitchen and bath designer!

There are some things I want you to know about kitchen and bath designers:

- We specialize in the safe and functional design and use of kitchen and bath spaces. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Preparing floor plans and interior elevations, including the placement, functionality and aesthetics of all elements;
 - Addressing plumbing, electrical, gas, exhaust, and other system needs;
 - Identifying and recommending relevant items such as appliances, cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, hardware, lighting, finish surfaces, and other items;
 - Ensuring that elements meet all code-requirements for health and safety, including fire protection considerations and fresh air make up.

While my colleagues and I recognize and appreciate that this legislation regulating interior designers is voluntary, kitchen and bath designers have been harmed in other states where such legislation has passed. Therefore, we request explicit assurance that we are not required to register as certified interior designers and that our current work practices will not be limited by this bill.

I want to thank Representative Pelanda for her engagement with the NKBA to help satisfy our concerns. We are buoyed by assurances we have received from her office to help us find a mutual solution for amending the bill and ensuring that my small business and those of my colleagues across this state are not inadvertently jeopardized by passage of this bill.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, and Rep. Pelanda, thank you for the opportunity to share some information about kitchen and bath design, and for considering my request to amend this bill before final passage.

Desired Amendment:

Add Definition: (on line 15 in introduced version OR on line 189 of proposed substitute

“Kitchen and bath designer” means a person engaged in the design of safe and functional kitchen and bath spaces and in the specification of products for kitchen and bath areas.

AND

On line 104 of introduced version OR on line 278 of proposed substitute, replace “other design professional;” with “kitchen and bath designer;”