



CCID

Connecticut Coalition of Interior Designers

50 Washington Street • South Norwalk, CT 06854 • Tel 203 322 2263 • Fax 203 329 7452

Sen. Doyle, Rep. Baram, Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Kiner, Sen. Witkos, Rep. Carter and other distinguished members of the General Law Committee:

My Name is Eric Schoonmaker and I am here to testify in support of HB-6404, - "An Act Concerning Registered Interior Designers". I have worked in Connecticut since 1984. I passed my NCIDQ professional exam in 1988 and became registered in Connecticut shortly thereafter. Between 1999 and 2007, I was Vice President and Partner in Vinick Associates, a Hartford based nationally known Interior Design and Retail Planning firm.. In 2008 I started my own firm, EMS Design.

I first want to thank the committee for their leadership in passing HB 5307 last session which ended the prohibition of utilizing our registration number in written communications in order to identify our specialized skill set and affirming specific knowledge and abilities. The new law protects consumers against those who are not registered with DCP and encourages in-state Interior Design students to stay in Connecticut after graduation.

HB-6404 is a natural follow-up from changes last session. HB-6404 would prescribe and approve the standard seal for use by Registered Interior Designers when submitting Construction documents and specifications for permit..If enacted, this will require a uniform seal for all RID in Connecticut. Current law prohibits those who are not RIDs from using an RID seal but does not specifically provide for what design the seal should take. Providing this technical clarification in HB - 6404 will eliminate any confusion among building code officials regarding an official RID seal.

Current statutes and the State Building Code requires "Registered Design Professionals" (i.e. Architects, Professional Engineers and Registered Interior Designers) to seal and sign all drawings, specifications and construction documents submitted for permit. Many local jurisdictions require a sealed set of plans be present on the construction site.

Thank you for considering HB-6404. I hope you can support this proposal and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this piece of legislation.

Eric M Schoonmaker

Eric M. Schoonmaker
Registered Interior Designer
President, Connecticut Coalition of Interior Designers