



The nation's leading advocate protecting designers' livelihoods
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March 1, 2013

BY EMAIL (to brandon.mccall@cga.ct.gov)

The Honorable Paul R. Doyle, Co-Chair
The Honorable David A. Baram, Co-Chair
General Law Committee
Room 3500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **OPPOSE** HB 6404 - An Act Concerning Registered Interior Designers

Dear Representatives Doyle and Baram:

On behalf of the below-listed trade associations' Connecticut members, we'd like to express two objections to House Bill No 6404 which would authorize the use of a seal by registered interior designers, and ask you to reject this bill.

Designer Society of America (www.dsasociety.com)
Interiors by Decorating Den (www.decoratingden.com)
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association (www.feda.com)
Foodservice Consultants Society International (www.fcsi.org)
Manufacturers Agents' Assoc. of the Foodservice Industry (www.mafsi.org)
North American Association of Food Equipment (www.nafem.org)

1. **Fraud.** When Connecticut's original title act was struck down and declared unconstitutional in Roberts v. Farrell, it was revealed that over 50% of the registered interior designers were "grandfathered" and did not possess the education or had passed the examination required in the statute. When the title act was subsequently amended to fix the constitutional defects and reinstated, the grandfathering was not addressed. Therefore, allowing currently registered interior designers to use a seal would perpetrate a fraud on the public and mislead building officials who would mistakenly assume that registered designers have met certain criteria, when in fact the majority have not.

In December, 2012, Texas considered repealing their Registered Interior Designer law. While the repeal failed, they amended the law to require that the 84% of Texas interior designers who had originally been grandfathered, would have to pass the exam within three years in order to keep their certification. At the very least, Connecticut should amend their law to do the same.

2. **Public Safety.** Historically, use of a seal has been reserved only for professionals who impact the structure and lifesafety of the built environment – usually architects and engineers. Since interior design work does not impact the health or safety of the public, there is no need for a seal. Indeed, a building official seeing a seal on a submitted plan may mistakenly assume that the plans have been sealed by a licensed professional; interior designers are not trained nor examined to protect the public, and sealing construction drawings may jeopardize public safety.

We respectfully urge you to protect the good citizens of Connecticut and **REJECT** HB 6404.

Very sincerely,

Patti Morrow

President

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Adjunct faculty, New Hampshire Institute of Art

Certified Residential Interior Designer (RIDE)

Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS)

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Board of Directors - Designer Society of America (DSA)