



February 27, 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: House Bill No 6404 - An Act Concerning Registered Interior Designers - **OPPOSE**

Dear Representatives Doyle and Baram:

On behalf of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), an international trade association representing all facets of the Kitchen & Bath Industry and its 901 Members in the State of Connecticut, please accept this letter expressing our objection to House Bill No 6404 which would authorize the use of a seal by registered interior designers.

The term "seal" has a very specific meaning in the built environment and refers to the ability of licensed design professionals, primarily architects and engineers, to submit building plans to local construction officials for purposes of obtaining a building permit. By signing and affixing a seal of the licensed architect or engineer to those plans, the licensed professional is attesting to the safety of the plans and its compliance with state law. By confirming that the submitted plans have been "signed and sealed" by the proper licensed professional, the construction code enforcement official can reasonably be assured that the plans comply with all state laws, codes and regulations, and that the safety of the public is protected. Registered interior designers simply do not have documented education, experience and training to protect the life safety of the public in building design.

This is especially true given the fact that, as noted in the District Court case of Roberts v. Farrell, a substantial number of Connecticut registered interior designers "fall under the grandfather provision in § 20-3771 (3) and therefore may lack the education, experience, and certification held by the remaining percentage of "interior designers" registered with the State. See *Roberts v. Farrell*, 630 F. Supp. 2d 242,254 (D. Conn 2009).

For the above reasons, we would respectfully request that the Committee not support the amendment to Section 20-3771 of the General Statutes and oppose House Bill No. 6404.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward S. Nagorsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".

Edward S. Nagorsky
General Counsel
National Kitchen & Bath Association