

To whom it may concern:

I am a recent graduate from Chatham University's Masters of Interior Architecture program and have started my career as an interior designer in an architecture firm in Pittsburgh. I am also an interior design instructor at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. I am writing to voice my concern for the need for the licensing of Interior Designers in Pennsylvania.

Everyday I work on projects that range from commercial office spaces, higher education, hospitals, laboratories, student housing, multi-family housing and many others. While working on these projects issues on health, safety, and welfare are the main concern. We work closely with many different codes that deal with life safety, accessibility, and fire safety to name a few. It is crucial for interior designers to be extremely knowledgeable and competent in codes and materials to ensure the safety of the consumer.

In Pennsylvania there are licensing for many different professions. To be a hair stylist you must have a license. If cutting hair needs a system of licensing why doesn't the Interior Design profession? We spend almost 90% of our lives indoors. Everybody should have a sense of security in knowing that there is a standard of competence one must have in order to design those interior spaces.

There are many states that have recognized the need for Interior Design licensing. I have lived in Pennsylvania for over 24 years and I do not want to have to relocate to a new state to ensure that my education is put to good use. There are over 17 Interior Design Undergraduate programs and 3 Masters programs in Pennsylvania. That is an ample amount of students that could become permanent residents of PA but may be driven to other states where they feel their profession is more secure.

I am active with the Interior Designer Legislative Coalition of Pennsylvania (IDLCPA) as the Educator West. I feel putting a system of licensing for interior design will be an important step in securing the public's safety, the profession, and be crucial part in keeping students in Pennsylvania after graduation.

Sincerely,

Lauren Musulin, Allied Member ASID, LEED-AP
Interior Designer
Interior Design Instructor
1324 Meadowlark Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
412.337.5207
laurenmusulin@gmail.com