

# MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D.

May 6, 2013

Senator Sean D. Wiley – 49<sup>th</sup>  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Room 185 – Main Capitol  
Senate Box 203049  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3049

Dear Senator Wiley *Sean*

Legislative enactments in 26-states across the country recognize the impact the interior designer makes in ensuring that interiors are built safely and responsibly in the United States. Mercyhurst University has graduated 138 students with baccalaureate degrees in interior design since 1988. We value the ability of our program to produce design professionals that carry forth the Mercy Mission of social responsibility and to engage our students in education, experience, and exam qualification that protects and enhances the life, health, safety and welfare of the public.

Unfortunately interior design is not professionally recognized in Pennsylvania, and as a result our graduates are precluded from practicing to their fullest capabilities. This includes the ability to bid on state and governmental interior projects that require the work of a “Registered Design Professional”. This is defined by the International Building Code and the International Residential Code adopted as the abiding codes in Pennsylvania in 2002.

I believe our students’ future ability to practice in the Commonwealth is limited if Pennsylvania does not offer state registration and licensure of our Interior Design graduates and as a result they will lose the ability to compete for projects and work in Pennsylvania.

With the competitive job market, it is increasingly important that we level the playing field in Pennsylvania for the 17-colleges and universities that graduate students with degrees in Interior Design each year.

For these reasons I urge you to support the pending legislation sponsored by Senators Kim Ward and Timothy Solobay that will provide Pennsylvania State Registration and Licensure of Interior Design professionals to both ensure public health and safety and to protect the ability of Pennsylvania designers to practice and compete here at home and across state lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D.  
President