

**MDCID Testimony 2023 - SUPPORT - Senate Bill 714 -**

Uploaded by: Barbara Brocato

Position: FAV



# Maryland Coalition for Interior Designers

Supporting the Interior Design profession in Maryland

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**Bill:** Senate Bill 714 – State Board of Certified Interior Designers – Sunset Extension  
**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
**Position:** SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023

The Maryland Coalition for Interior Designers is a privately funded, self-sustaining, volunteer organization that represents, promotes and informs the positions of the Interior Design community. It is a unified voice for practicing interior designers regardless of affiliation. We closely monitor current and future legislation that may have an effect on our profession.

**The Maryland Coalition for Interior Designers (MDCID) Supports Senate Bill 714 and the certification of interior designers in the State of Maryland.** The Maryland Board of Certified Interior Designers works to maintain the health, safety and welfare of Marylanders through the regulation of our profession and certified interior designers. As drafted, Senate Bill 714 will continue the operations of the Board until **2034**.

Professional interior designers are qualified by education, training, and examination to design and coordinate multi-faceted built interior environments that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public as well as enhance the functionality and aesthetic quality of these spaces. Interior designers combine critical skills, such as knowledge of codes, ADA, and construction materials, and creative thinking skills, such as space planning, documentation, and finish selection, to serve the public and create safe built space.

Interior design encompasses many built environments across residential, commercial and institutional interiors, including but not limited to, homes, hotels, restaurants, schools and universities, dormitories, office and industrial interiors, medical offices, ambulatory care facilities, hospitals, and senior living facilities.

Services provided by certified interior designers include designing safe environments for everyone from infants and the aged, taking into account materials that meet or exceed fire codes; complying with building codes; designing ergonomic work spaces; space planning to provide proper means of egress; and accommodations for people with disabilities and persons with special needs to participate in the everyday commercial, economic, and social activities of American life.

**For the reasons noted above we urge the committee give Senate Bill 714 a Favorable vote. Thank you for your consideration.**

**For more information please contact**

Holly Morgan, Chair & Heather Flannery, Legislative Director – [mdcidinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mdcidinfo@gmail.com)  
Barbara Brocato, Legislative Liaison – [barbara@bmbassoc.com](mailto:barbara@bmbassoc.com)

# **Maryland Written Testimony for Sunset Extension 03**

Uploaded by: Lauren Earley

Position: FAV



**Date:** March 2, 2023

**To:** Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment (“Committee”)

**Subject:** Vote YES on Senate Bill 714 at Committee Hearing on March 3, 2023

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 714, the **sunset extension for the State Board of Certified Interior Designers** (“Board”). We write today on behalf of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) to ask that you vote YES on Senate Bill 714, thus continuing the Board’s operations through July 1, 2034 and maintaining the important regulation of the interior design profession in Maryland.

Maintaining regulation of Certified Interior Designers **helps protect the health, safety, and welfare** of building occupants and the public. Certified Interior Designers are trained in areas of ADA-compliance, fire safety, egress planning, and more -- all of which ensure that end users’ safety and well-being is protected in these code-regulated spaces.

Certification for qualified interior designers also allows practitioners to compete more freely in the open market, which **increases consumer choice** and reduces client costs and project times. This **reduced bureaucracy** keeps Maryland’s economy competitive by allowing Certified Interior Designers to differentiate themselves professionally. Interior design regulation also **incentivizes students** and young professionals to stay in or come to Maryland to start their careers in the practice of certified interior design.

Because Senate Bill 714 ensures that the Board may continue to oversee Certified Interior Designers which is good for public health and safety plus helpful to the state’s economy, we ask that you **vote YES on SB 714**.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lauren Earley, Associate Director of Government & Public Affairs (ASID) at [learley@asid.org](mailto:learley@asid.org) or Marci Merola, Director of Advocacy (IIDA), at [mmerola@iida.org](mailto:mmerola@iida.org).

**MD SB 714 letter of support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matthew Barusch

Position: FAV



3/2/2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the committee,

My name is Matthew Barusch, Director of Government Affairs for the Council for Interior Design Qualification. Our organization administers the NCIDQ exam, the national certification for interior designers in the US and Canada, and the prerequisite examination for interior design registration in Maryland. I write to you today to ask for your support of SB 714 and to offer our assistance to the General Assembly as it considers this important legislation.

The NCIDQ Exam is a minimal competency assessment that assures the state and the public that interior designers are qualified to practice in a manner that protects health, safety, and welfare. We administer the exam to offer the public assurance of competency because the unregulated practice of interior design presents a risk to public safety, and the involvement of other design professionals may not be sufficient to mitigate that risk. Our certificate holders regularly address design and construction elements that directly affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, such as fire and life safety, building codes, ADA compliance, emergency egress, and much more. Most NCIDQ certificate holders practice in commercial, code-based environments like office buildings, hotels, hospitals, schools, etc. Reasonable regulation of interior design helps support public protection by ensuring that practitioners are qualified and competent to work independently in these spaces.

Due to interior designers' substantial impact on health, safety, and welfare, interior design is currently regulated in 28 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Interior design regulation is important to provide the public with access to qualified and competent practitioners and accountability for malpractice and recourse for consumers negatively affected by incompetent practice. CIDQ is not an enforcement or sanctioning body, therefore passage of the exam is not a substitute for regulation. The Maryland Board of Interior Design has performed that function since the inception of the Maryland Certified Interior Design Act in 1991, fulfilling the state's commitment to protecting the public through reasonable interior design regulation. Passage of SB 714 would continue that protection and allow CIDQ to continue to support the important work of the Maryland Board of Interior Design.

We thank the Committee for considering this important legislation and ask that you support SB 714. If you have any questions about the NCIDQ examination, please contact me at [mbarusch@cidq.org](mailto:mbarusch@cidq.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Barusch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Barusch  
Director, Government Affairs and Advocacy

**225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314  
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