

February 26, 2026

California Architects Board  
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105  
Sacramento, CA 95834-9673

President and Honorable Members of the Board:

On behalf of the CCIDC Board of Directors and Certified Interior Designers across California, we respectfully urge your opposition to AB 1796.

For more than 35 years, Certified Interior Designers in this state have successfully submitted complex commercial interior plans under the Title Act, operating in compliance with the building code and in coordination with architects, engineers, and building officials. During that time, there has been no documented threat to public health, safety, or welfare that would justify converting the profession into a criminally enforced practice act. AB 1796 would do exactly that.

National interior design associations have advanced similar legislation in 1999, 2008, and 2012. Each effort was defeated, and your Board has consistently opposed those measures. We respectfully ask that you do so again.

AB 1796 eliminates the Title Act and sunsets CCIDC, replacing a proven and effective certification system with mandatory licensure under this Board. It would make it a misdemeanor for interior designers to continue performing the same commercial work they have delivered safely and responsibly for decades unless they obtain a new state license. Consumers are not asking for this legislation.

Business and Professions Code section 5510.15 makes clear that public protection must be this Board's highest priority and paramount over other interests. We agree. However, public protection must be grounded in demonstrated risk. Without documented harm, what public health, safety, or welfare issue does this bill address? None. It is a solution in search of a problem.

Instead, the bill creates new barriers, higher costs, and uncertainty by attempting to carve out "commercial interior design" without a clear distinction from the commercial work interior designers have safely delivered for decades. It divides and weakens the profession, something no other built environment related profession does. It requires interior designers to obtain a new state license to continue practicing, but under a more restrictive scope that limits their work.

Establishing a new licensing program carries real administrative and examination costs. With a relatively small pool of *eligible* practitioners, those costs will fall on fewer professionals. This is a step backward. It limits business opportunity and increases financial pressure on small, independent, and diverse professionals who form the backbone of this profession. The bill does not enhance public protection. It reduces competition, increases costs, and creates unnecessary regulatory disruption.

We respectfully urge the Board to consider the real-world impact of AB 1796 and oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

CCIDC Board of Directors  
On behalf of Certified Interior Designers across California