

March 25, 2026

American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: **SUPPORT AB 96 (Jackson), Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of LPA, 2025 AIA Firm Award and California founded, firm 532 employees and (4) offices in California, to respectfully urge your support for AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act.

At LPA, interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary teams, working alongside architects and engineers on projects including Corporate Workplaces, Commercial ground-up buildings and campuses, Healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, Higher Education schools, Laboratories, Mixed Use buildings and facilities, Sports and Recreation facilities, and Civic buildings and facilities. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, construction documentation and contract administration for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare.

Over 61 years, LPA has developed a model of practice that successfully harnesses the full power of an integrated design firm. LPA has eliminated hierarchies between (9) disciplines, established performance expectations, created resources and conducted research to inform data-driven design and cultivated a culture of accountability and share responsibility. Interior designers are one of these integral disciplines.

Professional interior designers are highly trained and experienced, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex projects. Establishing licensure through AB1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice. The support of AIA in creating a Professional Licensure for Interior Design will help in continuing to elevate LPA's practices and ensure that our integrated firm is providing better processes with better results to our California communities.

California's design and construction industry is one of the largest in the nation, yet the state is still without a clear licensure pathway for interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design disciplines and teams.

We respectfully urge the committee to support AB1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jon Mills, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Chief Operating Officer

March 25, 2026

American Institute of Architects California

1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: **SUPPORT AB 96 (Jackson), Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

I am writing in strong support of **AB 1796** (Corey Jackson), the **Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**, and respectfully ask for your consideration to establish a formal licensure pathway for qualified interior designers.

Over 61 years, LPA has developed a model of practice that successfully harnesses the full power of an integrated design firm. LPA has eliminated hierarchies between (9) disciplines, established performance expectations, created resources and conducted research to inform data-driven design and cultivated a culture of accountability and share responsibility. Due to these practices our firm was awarded the 2025 AIA Firm award and Interior designers represent one of these integral disciplines.

As a Licensed Architect and AIA member practicing in California, I frequently collaborate with interior designers on a wide range of project types, including Commercial, Corporate, Healthcare, Mixed Use, Civic, Higher Education and K-12 market types. While many projects are delivered through integrated teams, interior designers also lead and execute projects independently, often taking primary responsibility for interior scopes that require permitting and code compliance. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, construction documentation and contract administration for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare.

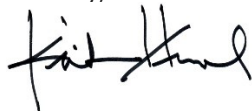
Interior designers today are highly trained professionals, often holding CIDA-accredited degrees, NCIDQ certification, and significant experience working within regulated environments. However, California does not currently provide a clear licensure pathway that reflects the level of responsibility they carry across project types.

AB 1796 would help bring greater clarity to roles and responsibilities within the design and construction industry. Establishing licensure would support accountability, improve coordination across disciplines when projects are collaborative, and provide a clearer framework for projects led directly by interior designers.

The support of AIA in creating a Professional Licensure for Interior Design will help in continuing to elevate LPA's practices and ensure that our integrated firm is providing better processes with better results to our communities and as an architect, I value the expertise interior designers bring to the built environment and believe this legislation is a meaningful step toward aligning professional recognition with the realities of practice in California.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to our communities.

Sincerely,



Keith Hempel, FAIA
President, Chief Design Officer
Principal
LPA Design Studios

March 25, 2026

American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: **SUPPORT AB 96 (Jackson), Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

I am writing in strong support of AB 1796 (Corey Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act, and respectfully ask for your consideration to establish a formal licensure pathway for qualified interior designers.

Over 61 years, LPA has developed a model of practice that successfully harnesses the full power of an integrated design firm. LPA has eliminated hierarchies between (9) disciplines, established performance expectations, created resources and conducted research to inform data-driven design and cultivated a culture of accountability and share responsibility. Due to these practices our firm was awarded the 2025 AIA Firm award and Interior designers represent one of these integral disciplines.

As a Licensed Architect and AIA member- practicing in California, I frequently collaborate with interior designers on a wide range of project types, including Commercial, Corporate, Healthcare, Mixed Use, Civic, Higher Education and K-12 market types. While many projects are delivered through integrated teams, interior designers also lead and execute projects independently, often taking primary responsibility for interior scopes that require permitting and code compliance. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, construction documentation and contract administration for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare.

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Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Francesca Redetzke, AIA
Design Coordinator II
fredetzke@lpadesignstudios.com



April 3, 2026

The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Committee on Business and Professions
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1796 (Jackson) - Oppose

Dear Chair Berman:

The American Institute of Architects California (AIA CA), an association of over 11,000 architects and design professionals in California, writes to respectfully oppose AB 1796.

We want to begin by recognizing that interior designers are valued and important members of the broader design and construction community. Architects regularly collaborate with interior designers, whose contributions enhance the functionality, aesthetics, and user experience of the built environment. Our concerns with AB 1796 are not about the value of that work, but rather about the structure, implications, and unintended consequences of the proposed licensure framework.

Architects are entrusted with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare through the design and coordination of complex building systems. Because building design decisions directly impact life safety for the occupants and communities who rely on these spaces, California has historically taken a careful and deliberate approach when establishing or modifying professional licensure frameworks related to the built environment. This issue is particularly important because decisions related to building design directly affect public health, safety, and welfare, and the regulatory structure governing these professions must remain clear and well understood. For this reason, proposals of this nature should be developed through a comprehensive and collaborative process that includes all affected professions, regulatory bodies, and stakeholders.

Concerns regarding the structure of the bill

AIA CA has significant concerns with the structure of the proposal.

The creation of new titles such as “Commercial Interior Designer” or “Professional Interior Designer” is likely to create confusion for consumers, particularly given the lack of a clear definition of “commercial” and the implication that other interior designers are not professionals.

Additionally, the proposal bifurcates the design industry into two separate titles and two oversight structures. The professions of architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture do not operate under such divisions or hierarchies.

The Council for Certified Interior Designers (CCIDC) would continue to exist as a separate entity outlined in the law under this proposal and would continue to certify interior designers who could submit plans on the same projects

[The American Institute of Architects](http://www.aiacalifornia.org)

AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
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F (916) 442-5346

www.aiacalifornia.org

Chair Berman

as the newly formed “licensed professional interior designer,” who would be licensed and regulated separately by the California Architect Board. We believe that this would be incredibly confusing for consumers.

While the California Council for Interior Design Certification currently offers a voluntary “commercial designation,” it does not establish a separate scope of practice. Even so, this designation has demonstrated the potential to create confusion, underscoring the risks of formalizing a more complex structure in statute.

Clarifying the Underlying Need for Regulatory Change

While we are open to the conversation surrounding what the best regulatory structure may be, data and information have not been provided around what risk to public health, safety, or welfare exists under the current system that would necessitate creating a new licensure framework?

For several years, we have heard anecdotally that the rationale for this legislation stems from situations in which construction documents prepared by interior designers were not accepted by a small number of authorities having jurisdiction. There is a lack of clarity regarding the underlying causes of these reported rejections by jurisdictions, as no data or supporting evidence has been presented as part of the licensure discussions. In practice, plan rejections occur for a wide range of reasons and are a routine part of the construction document review process in California. It has not been demonstrated whether interior designers are subject to a different regulatory standard than other licensed professionals, whether their submissions fail to meet applicable code requirements, whether they fall outside the scope permitted under current law, or whether the issue is simply a function of their unlicensed status within the existing regulatory framework.

Notably, evidence presented by the California Council for Interior Design Certification at the last hearing of the California Architects Board indicated that these instances appear to be relatively rare and that most have since been resolved.

Before pursuing a major structural change to California’s professional licensing framework, it is important that IIDA clearly identify and document the underlying risk to public safety and benefit to consumers and demonstrate why the proposed solution is necessary.

Need for meaningful stakeholder collaboration

We believe a more robust and inclusive stakeholder process is necessary before moving forward with legislation of this magnitude. To date, that level of engagement has not occurred, including during the interim period following the sunset review process when stakeholders were directed to work together.

In other states where similar changes have been considered or implemented, efforts have involved extensive stakeholder engagement over many months, and in some cases years. Many of those states were working from a less defined regulatory framework than California’s, making it even more important that any changes here be approached through a deliberate and well-vetted process.

Significant unresolved implementation questions

Even if structural concerns were addressed, substantial questions remain that require further analysis and stakeholder input, including:

- Whether the framework is insurable
- Whether it can be effectively regulated
- Whether it creates confusion for the public
- How it aligns with education, experience, and examination standards

Chair Berman

Any expansion of permitting authority for nonstructural and nonseismic elements, as currently defined in Title 24 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, must be paired with appropriate liability, insurance, and education requirements.

Responsible control and project coordination

California law recognizes architects as the licensed professionals responsible for coordinating building design and integrating multiple systems into a cohesive whole. This role carries significant responsibility and liability. While other licensed professionals—such as civil engineers, landscape architects, and contractors—may lead projects within their respective scopes, any proposal that alters permitting authority or introduces new roles must clearly define responsibility and accountability within the project delivery structure.

California's unique building code considerations

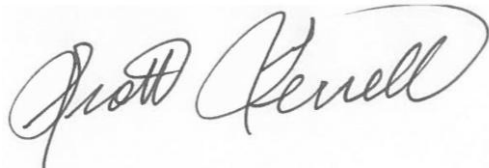
The California Building Standards Code includes complex and rigorous seismic safety requirements that apply to both interior and exterior elements of buildings. Any proposal affecting design responsibilities must ensure alignment with these standards and be evaluated through careful technical analysis.

Conclusion

For these reasons, AIA California must respectfully oppose AB 1796. We remain open to engaging in a more comprehensive and collaborative stakeholder process to better understand the issues and develop thoughtful solutions that protect public safety while supporting all members of the design community.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott Terrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Scott Terrell
Director of Government Relations



04.06.2026

American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: **DLR Group SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are reaching out on behalf of DLR Group, an international design firm with over 1,700 employees and 37 offices worldwide including over 80 licensed architects across 5 offices in California to respectfully urge your support for **AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**. Integrated design is the fundamental approach to all project work at DLR Group and interior designers are crucial members of the diverse, interdisciplinary teams who join together to execute on our brand promise to elevate the human experience through design.

The work of our interior designers routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces. These spaces directly impact public health, safety, and welfare across our many project sectors including workplace, hospitality, government buildings, schools, etc.

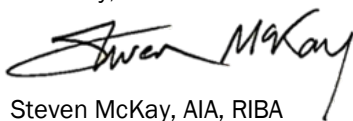
As an employee-owned firm DLR Group advocates for available pathways to licensure for all our employee owners; AIA's support of that effort aligns not only with advancing our interior design practice, but with DLR Group's core values across disciplines.

Professional interior designers are highly trained professionals, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex commercial projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

California remains one of the few large states without a clear licensure pathway for commercial interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design teams.

We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for commercial interior design. We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,




Steven McKay, AIA, RIBA
Chief Executive Officer



Peter Rutti, AIA, NCARB
Chief Design Officer



Pamela Touschner
California Region Leader



J Bantom

Jessica Bantom, HDA
Global Leader of Equity,
Diversity, and Belonging



Audrey Koehn

Audrey Koehn, NCIDQ
Global Interiors Leader

50 California Street
Seventh Floor

San Francisco California
94111-4677

T 415.394.1212

huntsmanag.com

San Francisco
New York
Chicago

April 7, 2026

American Institute of Architects California
Scott Terrell, AIA, Director of Government Relations — sterrell@aiacalifornia.org
Hillary Cole, Deputy Director, AIA California — hcole@aiacalifornia.org
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

Huntsman Architectural Group is a San Francisco-based design firm with 65 employees, including licensed architects and NCIDQ-certified interior designers. I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1796 (Jackson). Our practice is built on an interdisciplinary approach, which is precisely why this legislation matters to us.

At Huntsman, interior designers are not a supporting cast — they are co-authors of every project we deliver. The NCIDQ-certified designers on our team have demonstrated rigorous competency through a demanding credentialing examination. Day-to-day, they navigate the same complex regulatory terrain as our architects: California Building Code compliance, life-safety and egress design, accessibility requirements under the ADA and the preparation of construction documents for permitted commercial spaces. Their expertise is specialized, consequential, and — under current California law — formally unrecognized.

This disconnect between professional responsibility and legal standing creates friction in practice. In a firm where interior designers and architects work side by side, the absence of a licensure pathway means that licensed architects must assume formal liability for work that their interior design colleagues are fully qualified to own. The result is an inefficient allocation of professional accountability that serves neither the firm, nor the client, nor the public the regulatory system is meant to protect. AB 1796 would bring California's framework into alignment with the actual conditions of modern interdisciplinary practice.

California's lack of a defined commercial interior design licensure pathway increasingly puts us at odds with the professional standards that prevail nationally. Interior designers who hold CIDA-accredited degrees and NCIDQ certification have completed educational and examination requirements that are rigorous by any measure. Creating a formal licensure structure through AB 1796 would close the gap between earned expertise and statutory recognition, strengthen accountability across the industry, and send a clear signal that California values the full spectrum of design professionals who shape our built environment.

We respectfully and enthusiastically urge AIA California to support AB 1796. The strength of our profession depends on a regulatory environment that accurately reflects how design is actually practiced. This legislation is an important and overdue step toward that goal.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for the opportunity to share our perspective. We welcome any opportunity to discuss further.

Sincerely,

HUNTSMAN ARCHITECTURAL GROUP

Alexander (Sascha) Wagner, AIA NCARB FIIDA NCIDQ
President & CEO

cc: Robert Sumner, Assembly Business & Professions Committee — Robert.Sumner@asm.ca.gov
cab-connect@dca.ca.gov



April 14, 2026

To: American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of RMW Architecture and Interiors a private firm with 117 employees 32 licensed architects and 3 offices in California, to respectfully urge your support for AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act.

At RMW Architecture and Interiors, interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary teams, working alongside architects and engineers on projects including corporate workplaces, healthcare facilities, government buildings, schools, laboratories, hospitality spaces, etc. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare. RMW finds the AIA support for interior design licensure so important to our firm because it will enhance and strengthen collaboration between our architects and interior designers. It will enhance public protection and risk management by increasing our designer's experience and competence and it will increase our competitive advantage and credibility to our clients.

Professional interior designers are highly trained professionals, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex commercial projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

California remains one of the few large states without a clear licensure pathway for commercial interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design teams.

We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for commercial interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Terry Kwik



Caitlin Pastori



Stephanie Sims



American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of Studio O+A a private firm with 17 employees, 2 of whom are licensed architects and one office in California, to respectfully urge your support for **AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**.

At Studio O+A interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary teams, working alongside architects and engineers on corporate workplace projects. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare.

Professional interior designers are highly trained professionals, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex commercial projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

California remains one of the few large states without a clear licensure pathway for commercial interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design teams.

We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for commercial interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Primo Orpilla'.

Primo Orpilla
Principal and Co-Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verda Alexander'.

Verda Alexander
Co-Founder



American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: **SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of M. Arthur Gensler, Jr. & Associates, Inc., an employee-owned, California-founded, global architecture and design firm with over 6,600 employees, over 1,500 of whom are licensed architects, and six offices in California, to respectfully urge your support for **AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**.

At Gensler, interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary teams, working alongside architects and engineers on projects including corporate workplaces, healthcare facilities, government buildings, airports, schools, laboratories, hospitality spaces, and many others. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare. In many ways, our firm was founded with a focus on interior design as a major component of our business. The professional equity of leaders in industry is vital to the work we deliver for our clients, who deserve the peace of mind in knowing they have California licensed professionals working on their behalf. It is important to Gensler and its hundreds of AIA California Council members across the state that we hold interior designers to the highest professional standards.

Professional interior designers are highly trained professionals, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex commercial projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

California remains one of the few large states without a clear licensure pathway for commercial interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity,



strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design teams.

We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for commercial interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen H. Thomas".

Karen H. Thomas, FAIA
Regional Managing Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Howder".

Randy Howder, AIA, IIDA, LEED AP ID+C
Regional Managing Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Adams".

John Adams, AIA
Regional Managing Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kevin Heinly".

J. Kevin Heinly, AIA
Regional Managing Principal



420 North 5th Street, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55401

612.758.4000
HGA.COM

American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: **SUPPORT AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of Hammel Green and Abrahamson (HGA), an employee-owned firm with 1,091 employees, 330 of whom are licensed architects and 5 offices in California, to respectfully urge your support for **AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act**.

At HGA, interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary teams, working alongside architects and engineers on projects including corporate workplaces, healthcare facilities, government buildings, schools, laboratories, hospitality spaces, etc. Their work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare. As an interdisciplinary firm engaged in diverse, multifaceted projects, HGA values the importance of all professionals maintaining licensure with consistent standards of education and training. Interior designers are essential to our firm's success, bringing expertise that shapes environments for functionality, safety, and well-being. Their ability to seamlessly integrate aesthetics, technical requirements, and user experience is vital to realizing our clients' visions and delivering holistic solutions. Because commercial interior designers are an integral part of our team, we support this effort to ensure their expertise and significant contributions are appropriately recognized within our industry.

Professional interior designers are highly trained professionals, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex commercial projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

California remains one of the few large states without a clear licensure pathway for commercial interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design teams.

We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for commercial interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mia Blanchett, FAIA
Chief Executive Officer

cc: cab-connect@dca.ca.gov

Perkins&Will

April 14, 2026

**American Institute of
Architects California**
1931 H Street
Sacramento, California
95811

Re: Support AB 1796
(Jackson), the Licensed
Professional Interior Design
Practice Act

*“Throughout my 17 year
career in interior design,
I have maintained a
strong client focus to
ensure the ultimate
dreams of their spaces
are realized. My strong
attention to detail and
love for experiential
spaces drive my
love of design.”*

— JAMES DUENSING, AIA,
NCARB, LEED AP ID+C

2 Bryant Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, California 94105

646 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

5171 West Jefferson Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016

1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 510
San Diego, California 92101

www.perkinswill.com

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We write on behalf of the California practices of Perkins&Will, a global design practice with more than 2,900 professionals worldwide, including 986 licensed architects and 204 licensed or certified interior designers, 88 of whom are licensed in California. We respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act.

At Perkins&Will, professional interior designers are integral to the delivery of complex, high-performance projects across all sectors, including workplaces, healthcare facilities, government buildings, educational environments, laboratories, and hospitality spaces. Working in close collaboration with architects and engineers, our interior designers frequently lead projects from concept through completion. Their responsibilities encompass technical design, regulatory coordination, life-safety planning, team leadership, risk management, financial performance, and primary client engagement—always in alignment with our firm’s standards and Living Design principles.

Our work is grounded in a deeply held belief that people are at the center of the built environment. Interior designers play a critical role in shaping safe, healthy, equitable, and inspiring spaces that directly affect how people live, work, heal, and learn. Through thoughtful interior environments—whether within a single workplace or across entire campuses—our designers significantly contribute to public well-being, community vitality, and long-term building performance.

Professional interior designers are highly educated and rigorously trained, often holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with extensive experience delivering complex projects subject to stringent codes and regulations. Yet in California, these professionals remain without a clear licensure pathway that reflects their responsibilities, competencies, and accountability to the public. AB 1796 would appropriately align statutory authority with professional responsibility, modernizing California’s regulatory framework to reflect the realities of contemporary design practice.

California is one of the few large states that has not yet established clear licensure recognition for professional interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would bring greater regulatory clarity, strengthen public protection and accountability, and foster more efficient, transparent collaboration among design professionals—benefiting clients, project teams, and the public alike.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge AIA California to support AB 1796 and help advance a modern, equitable, and effective professional framework for commercial interior design in our state.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to our profession, and for your thoughtful consideration of this request. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and are happy to provide additional information as needed.

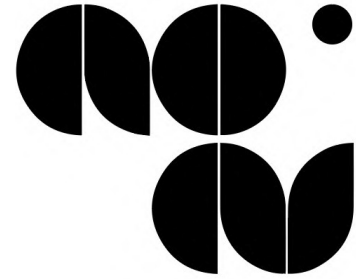
Sincerely,



Trevor Abramson, FAIA, NCARB LFA
Principal, Managing Director, Perkins&Will
213.270.8472 / trevor.abramson@perkinswill.com



Brandon Kent, AIA, LEED AP
Principal, Managing Director, Perkins&Will
415.546.2956 / brandon.kent@perkinswill.com



April 17, 2026

American Institute of Architects California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

We are writing on behalf of NONI Design House, a Los Angeles based architecture and interior design firm led by Nicole Stubblefield and Norella Carboni with 2 owners, 4 contracted part-time consultants, and 1 office in California, to respectfully urge your support for **AB 1796 (Jackson), the Licensed Professional Interior Design Practice Act.**

At NONI Design House, interior designers are essential members of our interdisciplinary practice, working alongside architects and engineers on projects including corporate workplaces, multi-family housing, residential projects and hospitality spaces. Our work routinely involves accessibility compliance, life-safety coordination, egress planning, materials selection, and construction documentation for regulated and permitted spaces that directly impact public health, safety, and welfare. Interior designers bring a deep understanding of materials and spatial planning, shaping each project in response to its site, use, and type.

Professional interior designers are highly trained and experienced, many holding CIDA-accredited degrees, architecture degrees, or NCIDQ certification, along with years of experience on complex projects. Establishing licensure through AB 1796 would align professional responsibility with statutory authority and better reflect the realities of modern design practice.

Collaboration across disciplines is essential to our process. We value the exchange of ideas across disciplines, using it to expand our perspective and uncover thoughtful, unexpected solutions.

Our interiors are informed by this interdisciplinary approach where material, object, and space are considered as one resulting in environments that are cohesive, intentional, and deeply connected to how they are made and experienced.

California's design and construction industry is one of the largest in the nation, yet the state is still without a clear licensure pathway for interior designers. Supporting AB 1796 would improve regulatory clarity, strengthen accountability, and support more efficient collaboration across design disciplines and teams.

We respectfully urge the AIA to support AB 1796 and help modernize California's professional framework for interior design.

We thank you for your continued commitment and service to our industry and for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Norella Carboni Amiel



Nicole Celeste Stubblefield
CA Arch License #C36522

Architects are licensed and regulated by the California Architects Board located at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, CA 95834.

May 15, 2026

Ronald A. Jones, AIA, President
California Architects Board
2420 Del Paso Road
Sacramento, CA 9584

Dear President Jones:

The Board of Directors of the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC) respectfully requests that the California Architects Board oppose AB 1796.

Since 1992, CCIDC has served as California's consumer protection body administering the state's Interior Design Title Act pursuant to the Business and Professions Code. For more than three decades, Certified Interior Designers (CIDs) have practiced successfully under this framework, including preparing and submitting plans accepted by local building departments throughout California.

During that time, CCIDC has been reviewed and reauthorized by the Legislature through the Sunset Review process five separate times. The existing framework has consistently been found to function effectively and in public interest.

Importantly, CCIDC's complaint and enforcement data demonstrate that Certified Interior Designers perform well in the marketplace and generate very few consumer complaints. After more than 35 years under California's current Title Act framework, there remains no demonstrated pattern of public health, safety, or welfare harm necessitating creation of a restrictive practice act.

Despite this successful regulatory history, AB 1796 proposes dismantling the current framework and replacing it with a costly and operationally uncertain licensing structure administered under the California Architects Board.

This proposal raises significant concerns for CAB.

Based upon the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, the proposed program would require substantial startup and operational expenditures while generating little or no initial revenue. Sponsors have acknowledged that the potential licensee population may be extremely limited. If approximately 200 current commercial-designated CIDs became licensed under the proposal, biennial license fees could exceed \$5,520 per licensee simply to sustain the program.

Simply stated, the math does not support a financially viable program.

As a practical matter, CAB would likely be required to subsidize implementation and operation of this new licensing structure through Board resources, staffing, infrastructure, and administrative support. This raises serious concerns regarding the use of architect licensee fees and Board resources to support an entirely separate profession absent a demonstrated public protection need.

California Business and Professions Code section 5510.15 states:

“Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.”

Given the absence of demonstrated public harm under the current Title Act framework, we respectfully ask: What public protection purpose is served by replacing an already functioning statutory system with a financially unstable licensing program that may adversely impact thousands of working professionals?

AB 1796 does not appear to address a demonstrated consumer protection problem. Instead, it creates substantial fiscal exposure, operational burden, and regulatory expansion despite the existence of a proven system already established in California law.

For these reasons, the CCIDC Board of Directors respectfully requests the California Architects Board oppose AB 1796.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Board of Directors
California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC)

cc: Christine Lally - Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

May 18, 2026

Ronald A. Jones, AIA, President
California Architects Board
2420 Del Paso Road
Sacramento, CA 9584

Dear President Jones:

On behalf of the California Legislative Coalition for Interior Designers, I am writing to respectfully request that the California Architects Board (CAB) oppose AB 1796 (Jackson), which would establish a licensure program for interior designers. At the outset, I would like to note that CAB has opposed similar legislation each and every time it has been introduced (2012, 2008, 1999) and there is no basis for deviating from that precedent.

In a nutshell, the Board should oppose AB 1796 because:

1. There is no evidence of consumer harm from interior design;
2. AB 1796's sponsor's arguments do not stand up to scrutiny; and
3. The bill is operationally infeasible
4. The Board's mission requires it to focus on consumer protection above all else

The Board has always opposed legislation like AB 1796 because there is no justification for creating a licensure program for interior designers. California already has a "title act" for interior designers, as specified in the Business and Professions Code, and administered by the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC). The standard that states use to determine regulation of a profession is whether government intervention is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare as well as to prevent irreparable harm. Interior design simply does not meet that standard.

The sponsors of AB 1796 (Chicago-based International Interior Design Association [IIDA]) have provided no empirical evidence of consumer harm. In fact, there are very few complaints against interior designers. (CCDC received only 8 complaints in the last five years.) In addition, the two states (Louisiana and Nevada) that have practice acts like AB 1796 proposes have not revoked a single license in more than 10 years, further underscoring the lack of consumer harm.

The sponsors point to a night club fire from 2003 in Rhode Island as their proof of consumer harm. In fact, this scenario did not involve an unlicensed interior designer, but rather a foolish property owner and aggressive pyrotechnic show during a concert. With that justification falling flat, the sponsors now allege that there is general fire danger. Using that logic, everyone everywhere should be licensed because we live, work, and play in areas that could be flammable. Fortunately, building department plan check and inspection processes, advanced building codes, product testing and listing, collaboration between project team members, and certification by CCIDC establishes a strong safety net on all construction projects. The fact remains that there is no justification for something like AB 1796

IIDA has offered a number of justifications for the bill, many of which have been attempted before. Unfortunately, there is a long history of misrepresentation on the part of licensure proponents over the last 30 years, so we would like to set the record straight.

1. FALSE IIDA claim: "AB 1796 is only voluntary." The license envisioned in AB 1996 is absolutely mandatory with a defined scope of practice and enforcement penalties, just like an architectural license.
2. FALSE IIDA claim: "Over 30 states regulate interior design." The reality is that only two states regulate the practice of interior design. All other states only have a "title acts" and do not have an effective alternative, like CCIDC. California already has a "title act." It should also be noted that the two states that adopted practice acts did so back in the 1990s.
3. FALSE IIDA claim: "Interior designers' plans are not accepted by building departments." This has been the primary argument for over 25 years, but it still does not stand up to any level of scrutiny. IIDA's claims on this point are simply untrue. Certified interior designers submit plans to building departments (and they are accepted and permitted) every day. In addition, CCIDC has a special program to assist Certified Interior Designers who have issues with building departments. In almost all instances, the plans are accepted. If there were an actual documented issue on this point, the appropriate response would be legislation focusing on building departments.
4. FALSE IIDA claim: "Interior designers are forced to practice under the oversight of other licensed professionals to engage with any part of the construction industry, like bidding for work, procuring insurance, or submitting drawings to Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs)." This is the new, more creative argument IIDA is putting forth, and it is also untrue. Certified interior designers regularly practice independently. They are absolutely able to pursue projects, procure insurance, and (as noted above) submit construction documents. Again, no evidence has been provided to support IIDA's claim.
5. FALSE IIDA claim: "Interior designers are forced to give up ownership of their intellectual property." This is also untrue. Perhaps the sponsors are referring to business practices within certain large multi-disciplinary firms (many of IIDA's advocates work in a large corporate setting and do not have their own firms or practice independently), but this is not the reality in the marketplace.

Despite the baseless claims sponsors put forth, a diverse range of organizations recognize the many flaws in AB 1796. The following groups oppose the bill:

California Building Officials
American Institute of Architects - California
Community College League of California
California Coalition for Affordable Housing
National Federation of Independent Business - California
California Building Industry Association
California Council - American Society of landscape Architects
Institute for Justice
Chief Executive Officers - California Community College Board
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Design Freedom Alliance
California Council for Interior Design Certification

Perhaps AB 1796's most fatal flaw is that it is **operationally infeasible**. According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, CAB will have to loan the interior design program \$826,000 in start-up costs

in its first year. And additional funds will need to be loaned by CAB for 2027-28 and 2008-29, as the interior design program will not collect any revenue until it promulgates regulations (18-month process), builds the IT system to accommodate whatever the regulations end up requiring, prepare duty statements and hire staff, and develop a California Supplemental Examination (24 month process), etc. It is conceivable that the Board will not collect anything on its "loan" of over \$2 million for two years or longer, if ever.

AB 1796 would be highly disruptive for the Board for reasons beyond operational infeasibility. The Board's strong history of consumer protection would be jeopardized by the Board's very composition. AB 1796 would make public members the minority for the first time, thereby subjecting the Board to claims of ignoring consumers in favor of practitioners under North Carolina Dental Board v. Federal Trade Commission or when assessed as part of the Sunset Review process.

The Board, in fact, has a compelling record of maintaining its unwavering commitment to consumer protection. The Architects Practice Act memorializes that commitment in section 5510.15: "Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Architects Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount."

AB 1796 is not about consumer protection. It is about dominating the market for 100 corporate designers. It is about putting 2,000 Certified Interior Designers out of business to benefit those 100. It is about selling an unproven examination. And it is about IIDA selling exam prep materials. CAB can best stand up for consumers by strengthening its partnership with CCIDC. And CAB should continue to adhere to its public protection mission by maintaining its opposition to bills like AB 1796. **On behalf of 2,000 Certified Interior Designers whose livelihood is in jeopardy, we respectfully ask that the Board oppose AB 1798.**

We thank you for your consideration and will be at the May 21 hearing to provide testimony and answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Hampton, CID-C, President

cc: Christine Lally - Director, Department of Consumer Affairs