

Sent on behalf of the AIAWA Board of Directors:

Dear AIAWA Members,

We are writing to ask for your input on proposed legislation to register commercial interior designers in Washington state. AIAWA has not established a position on this issue — your feedback will directly inform the board's determination.

BACKGROUND

In August 2024, members of Washington's chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) contacted AIAWA regarding legislation to create a registration for commercial interior designers. In early 2025, a Joint Taskforce was formed between the Consortium for Interior Design-Washington and AIA members to collaborate in exploring 2026 legislation for the licensing of commercial interior designers in Washington state.

With a commitment to transparency and inclusion, AIAWA assembled a group of members representing all local chapters and the full spectrum of member perspectives (*from strong support to strong opposition*). Throughout this process, AIA members consistently focused on protection of public health, safety and welfare and professional accountability.

Over the past 18 months, the Joint Taskforce has achieved the following:

- Convened 8 full working sessions with the full Joint Taskforce;
- Hosted 2 virtual town halls open to all AIA and IIDA members, including one specifically for small firms (recordings: [here](#));
- Consulted with NCARB, AIA National, and the [Interorganizational Committee on Regulation](#) (ICOR); and
- Reviewed 4 versions of the proposed 2026 bill.

From the Consortium: "HB 2721 establishes a certificate of registration and requires registration for individuals who choose to practice within the defined Registered Commercial Interior Design scope and use the associated title and stamp/seal authority. Within that defined scope, the bill includes enforcement provisions that make unregistered practice unlawful. **An interior designer can't practice commercial interior design without being registered under this bill, unless they fall under the scope of exemptions defined in HB 2721.**" {HB 2721 Sec. 3(3)} **"We are moving commercial interior design into a regulated practice that only registered interior designers and architects can do, because it is a practice that impacts public health, safety and welfare."**

Prior to the start of the 2026 legislative session, the Joint Taskforce mutually agreed to await the release of ICOR's report on [Practice Overlap](#) before making final decisions and posting a bill to the legislature. The report was to provide clarity on whether the regulation of the practice of commercial interior design was necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, a threshold required by [RCW 18.118](#) in the state of Washington.

Unfortunately, the ICOR report raised more questions than it answered, and its late release in March 2026 meant that legislative cutoffs had already passed. The Consortium received a courtesy hearing, but no bill advanced.

After careful review of the bill, the ICOR report and information provided from NCARB and AIA National, the AIAWA's internal taskforce members voted unanimously in late May — with one abstention — to recommend reducing the scope of the bill to title protection only, which would establish protection of the use of the title Registered Commercial Interior Designer as a measured first step. This approach mirrors what many other states have done: establishing a starting point that can be updated as evidence of public safety necessity develops and allowing for more comprehensive legislation over time.

The Consortium for Interior Design - Washington declined this approach and stated its intent to proceed with 2027 legislation regulating the practice of commercial interior design.

CRITICAL REQUEST

As Joint Taskforce deliberations continue, your voice is needed to establish the Board's formal legislative position for the anticipated 2027 bill.

Please read the most recent bill, [HB 2721](#), in full. To avoid introducing bias, we are not providing a summary.

If you have not already submitted comments, please choose one of the following options. All input will require your name and AIA member number, and all comments will be kept confidential:

1. Complete a brief survey: [HB 2721 Survey](#)
2. Email your feedback directly to tsueirro@aiawa.org
3. Contact your [AIAWA board representative](#) and share your feedback by email or in conversation.

Work will continue on proposed 2027 legislation, and AIAWA needs to hear from you to formulate our legislative position and develop future testimony. ***AIA Washington Council's position on this legislation will be determined by our Board of Directors, who represent the members of their local chapters. If a clear consensus emerges from member input, the Board will adopt that position (support, neutral, oppose). If consensus cannot be reached, AIA Washington Council will remain neutral.***

Please provide your feedback by end of business July 24th.

Thank you for participating in advocacy on this important issue. Both the AIAWA Council Board members and the Board's Joint Taskforce representatives are eager to hear from you.