“Architects Design Buildings, Inside and Out” Script

Slide 1) As architects, we design buildings inside and out. And as we do, we frequently work with interior designers to help us with space planning and the selection of furniture, fixtures, and color themes.

Slide 2) Interior Design legislative proposals, however, overreach into the practice of interior architecture, which is beyond what an interior designer is qualified to do.

Slide 3) When we design buildings, we design and integrate a multitude of exterior and interior building systems and elements that have to work together. This integration of systems must be managed in the horizontal realm and

Slide 4) and the vertical realm.

Slide 5) Complex circulation systems throughout a building, such as elevators, escalators and stairs must also be designed and integrated to function safely within a building. Interior design legislation would make this design and integration process part of their licensed practice... and they simply do not have the technical expertise to manage these life safety elements.

Slide 6) There are numerous other complex, building technologies that would be swept into interior design practice under their proposed legislation, including technologies that impact air quality and air flow standards. All of these systems and more require the unique education and experience of an architect especially when the interiors are those of buildings of any significance such as hospitals, schools, universities, theatres, large commercial, and multistory residential.

Slide 8) The complexity of interiors cannot be understated. Interior spaces are much more than what can be seen with the naked eye, yet interior design legislation considers only a fraction of the real complexity and wrongly assumes buildings are shells for interior spaces. Quite the contrary. A building involves multiple layers of systems that must work together from the outside in and the inside out. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of the occupants, the design professional in charge must be qualified.

Slide 9) On average, architects are required to complete more than twice the post-secondary education of interior designers. More time in school means a greater opportunity to learn the latest and best-proven techniques in safety, design, and construction.

Slide 10) Before architects become licensed, we must complete nearly 2,000 more training hours than interior designers.
Slide 11) These training hours (unlike those of interior designers) are prescriptive in nature, covering life safety codes and other regulatory issues that impact the wellbeing of its occupants.

Slide 12) The same goes for the licensing exams – there are stark differences in content between the interior design exam and the architects exam. As architects we are comprehensively tested to design the whole building as one unit (inside and out) to ensure functionality of its systems and the wellbeing of its occupants.

Slide 13) Legislative proposals to license the practice of interior design, as separate and apart from existing architectural laws that already regulate the design of building interiors, begs a common-sense question that taxpayers would ask: why?

Slide 14) Buildings are not simply a series of exterior walls and roofs…they are complex spaces in which we live, work, heal, play, learn, and worship. Every day, people move about their communities from one indoor space to another. Architects create these indoor spaces – from the outside in and the inside out.