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**CONTACT:** Edward S. Nagorsky, General Counsel and Director of Legislative Affairs  
800-843-6522, ext. 2289; enagorsky@nkba.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NATIONAL KITCHEN AND BATH ASSOCIATION OPPOSES  
MASSACHUSETTS LICENSING OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS**

**Hackettstown, NJ** (July 17, 2007) - The National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) joined with numerous other trade organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Massachusetts Federation of Building Officials, the Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts and the Institute for Justice in opposing the licensing of interior designers before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure on July 10, 2007.

The practice act, advanced by the Massachusetts Interior Design Coalition, would for the first time in Massachusetts, establish a broad-sweeping licensing scheme to regulate who may or may not practice interior design in the Commonwealth. Under the proposed law, only those designers who have passed a private, non-regulated exam and who graduated an interior design program accredited by either the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design could become registered with the newly created board to practice interior design and use the title "Registered Interior Designer." The many thousands of interior designers in Massachusetts who could not meet the restrictive requirements that this law would mandate could be forced to cease working or seek employment elsewhere. "This legislation is not being requested by the public or any consumer advocacy group to protect the citizenry from unlicensed interior designers who pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public. Instead, it is being supported by a handful of interior designers who would actually qualify under the arbitrary requirements being imposed on the entire design community. The end result will be a lessening of competition with the attendant increase in cost to the consumer" said Edward Nagorsky, General Counsel and Director of Legislative Affairs for the NKBA.

Those seeking to impose licensing on the interior design community were unable to demonstrate any evidence to support of their position such licensing is necessary to protect the public from unlicensed interior designers. Mark Karas, CMKBD, of Adams Kitchens, Inc. a Stoneham Massachusetts based design firm and the current Secretary of the National Kitchen & Bath Association, noted that there are already sufficient protections in place under existing state law to ensure that the public is protected. "In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you have to be a Licensed Construction Supervisor or hold a Home Improvement Contractors License issued by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards in order to pull a permit for interior construction and design. Any application for a permit is reviewed by the local construction code

enforcement official to ensure that the work being performed is up to Code and that the health, safety and welfare of the owner is protected. Any additional licensing merely adds to the cost of doing business and is another layer of governmental oversight which is unnecessary and redundant”.

*About the National Kitchen & Bath Association*

*The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is a non-profit trade association that has educated and led the kitchen and bath industry since 1963. With nearly 40,000 members and growing, NKBA owns the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show & Conference (K/BIS), the world's largest trade show dedicated to the kitchen and bath industry. The mission of NKBA is to enhance member success and excellence, promote professionalism and ethical business practices and provide leadership and direction for the kitchen and bath industry. For more information, visit [www.nkba.org](http://www.nkba.org) or contact the NKBA at 800-843-6522*