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Small Business Opposes Interior Designer Licensing

BOSTON, July 9, 2007 – Bill Vernon, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business/Massachusetts, today called on the Legislature to defeat a new licensing proposal for interior designers which would lead to higher costs and fewer jobs in Massachusetts. Vernon called the legislation “a solution looking for a problem.”

"The interior design business has historically encompassed a wide diversity of practitioners responding to a wide range of consumer demands," Vernon said. "This legislation would replace a flexible system with a 'one size fits all' regulatory scheme without any appreciable level of consumer demand or need for government protection."

Many interior designers are independent small-business owners who can ill afford the time and cost of complying with a new bureaucracy. Vernon noted the plan would not only be a back-breaker for small businesses, but also for taxpayers and consumers as well.

"This legislation would impose costs on taxpayers, practitioners, and consumers alike—a lose, lose, lose situation," Vernon concluded. "Certainly state government has more significant problems on which to spend its scarce resources than a new bureaucracy nobody is clamoring for that will stifle the talents of interior designers and force some of them out of business."

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NFIB is the nation's leading small-business advocacy association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small- and independent-business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB's powerful network of grassroots activists send their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America's free enterprise system. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. More information about NFIB is available online at www.NFIB.com/newsroom.