



NEWS RELEASE

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FGI Announces Support for Pro Codes Act

Florence, MA — FGI today announced its support for the bipartisan Pro Codes Act. This proposed federal legislation would affirm that standards development organizations retain copyright protection even when standards are incorporated into law by reference and preserve free public access to those incorporated standards.

FGI is an independent nonprofit standards development organization that publishes the *FGI Codes for Planning and Design* of hospitals, outpatient settings, and residential care and support settings. These documents establish nationally recognized minimum standards for the planning, design, and construction of health care facilities and are adopted, referenced, or incorporated into regulation in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and used by The Joint Commission. The remaining states permit or encourage their use as an accepted equivalency.

The *FGI Codes* are developed and continually updated through a rigorous consensus-based process involving hundreds of multidisciplinary volunteer experts, including architects, engineers, clinicians, facility managers, regulators, infection prevention specialists, and public health professionals. The development process requires substantial investment in research, technical review, stakeholder engagement, public comment, and administrative support. These activities are funded through the lawful sale and licensing of FGI publications; no federal or state tax funding supports the development of the *FGI Codes*.

FGI's support for the Pro Codes Act reflects growing concern across the standards development community regarding the unauthorized reproduction and commercialization of copyrighted standards by third-party platforms. Many independent standards organizations responsible for developing critical life safety, building safety, fire protection, electrical, accessibility, and health care standards are confronting similar challenges. Without a sustainable funding model, the independent system that develops and maintains these essential standards is placed at risk.

“Independent standards development organizations perform a critical public service,” said Heather Livingston, CEO of FGI. “Organizations such as FGI convene subject matter experts from across the health care and design community to develop evidence-based standards that directly support patient safety and the safety of building occupants nationwide. The ability to sustain that work depends upon maintaining the legal protections that have long enabled independent standards development.”

Livingston added that the issue extends well beyond any single organization or publication. “This legislation is important because it supports the long-term viability of the independent consensus-based system on which governments, regulators, and industries throughout the United States rely,” she said. “The Pro Codes Act preserves an appropriate balance: incorporated standards remain publicly accessible, while the organizations responsible for developing and updating them retain the intellectual property protections necessary to continue their work.”

FGI encourages stakeholders throughout the health care, design, construction, and regulatory communities to support the Pro Codes Act and efforts to preserve the independent standards development system that underpins critical public safety protections across the built environment.

More information on the legislation is available at: <https://www.procodesact.com>.

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About FGI

Founded in 1998, FGI is a nonprofit corporation founded to provide leadership and continuity to the *FGI Codes/Guidelines* revision process. FGI functions as the coordinating entity for the development of the *FGI Codes/Guidelines* using an interdisciplinary, consensus-based process and for the provision of ancillary services that encourage and improve their application and use.

About the *FGI Codes/Guidelines*

FGI develops the *FGI Codes* (formerly known as the *Guidelines*), nationally recognized standards for the design and construction of hospitals, outpatient facilities, and residential care settings. Updated every four years, the *FGI Codes* reflect evolving concepts, capabilities, and technologies in health and residential care delivery. The *FGI Codes* are used widely across public and private sectors; they are adopted by states for regulatory purposes and referenced in laws, codes, rules, and regulations; applied in private-sector self-regulation and facility planning; and used to promote safe, effective design practices.

Revenue from the sale of the *FGI Codes* funds research and the activities of the Health Guidelines Revision Committee for future updates. The *FGI Codes/Guidelines* are protected by copyright and available exclusively at FGIGuidelines.org. Any websites offering the *FGI Codes/Guidelines* for sale without directing users to FGIGuidelines.org are not authorized or endorsed by FGI.