

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** ALLEN DENNISON, MD <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:46 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support H5504 - Emotional Support Animals

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

My wife and I are primary care physicians who own 428 Hope street, Providence with six one bedroom apartments. We recognize the need for emotional support animals as well as internet business which for a fee will provide questionable certification for any animal serving any person without real psych nor medical diagnosis. Such practices can impact our tenants' quality of life as well as our property.

Please support H5504, which ensures that only individuals with verified disabilities qualify for emotional support animals (ESAs). Landlords are permitted to request valid documentation from licensed Rhode Island healthcare professionals to confirm the tenant's need for an ESA, but they cannot refuse housing solely due to the presence of an ESA. The goal of this legislation is to strike a balance between the rights of tenants who require emotional support animals and the concerns of housing providers.

This bill establishes a clear legal process for the acceptance of ESAs. It aligns state service animal laws with federal regulations, designates dogs and cats as recognized emotional support animals, and outlines the types of documentation landlords can request. Additionally, it requires applicants to have an established relationship with a Rhode Island medical professional for at least 30 days before providing documentation verifying their need for an ESA. This language is already part of law in several other states.

Sincerely,

ALLEN DENNISON  
325 Newman Ave  
Rumford, RI 02916  
JAMDMD@AOL.COM