

Roberta DiMezza

From: Christopher Smith <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 8:42 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Oppose 5920, oppose 5504 ESA

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

This bill will be ripe with abuses. I'm not interested in housing the mentally ill population of the State. This is a state issue that legislators are trying to dump onto landlords. The state should consider reopening mental asylums considering most of the population of the homeless are mentally ill, which is why they end up "unhoused". Not fair to us to have to accept the risk of unknowingly housing someone who might burn the house down and it's certainly not fair to other tenants that may live in the same property. As far as Esa animals, in my own experience I have found that many tenants have trouble taking care of themselves and having a pet only compounds the issue. Taking care of a pet can be expensive and time consuming. Tenant that cannot manage to take care of the pet or have the time for it often ends up with a neglected pet which can destroy Apartments. I think If you can afford the financial burden of having a pet, maybe afford a house first of your own to have a pet in.

I oppose the proposals made to ESAs in H5920 as they are vague and could be abused. Additionally, adding "housing status" as a protected class, creates undue liability for property owners simply seeking to assess applicants through a proper background check in order to protect the well-being of neighboring tenants and protect their investment. I support H5504 as it seek to protect those who truly need Emotional support animals and deters fraud and abuse. Additionally it creates a system in line with longstanding federal standards that would provide an expectation and guidelines to both renters and landlords to follow. This seems like fair and balance legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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