

Roberta DiMezza

From: Mac MacDougall <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2025 4:07 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Oppose 5920, SUPPORT 5504 ESA

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

Dear Representative Rebecca Kislak, And Representative Jennifer Stewart, and Committee Clerk Roberta DiMezza, I strongly oppose making ESAs in H5920. ESAs have been broadly abused in rentals and this will just open up the flood gates for further abuse. And the folks that truly need ESAs will bear the weight of this legislation. Landlords will see this as just another a way the government is overstepping into their ability qualify tenants for themselves. And it is not going to help convince any landlord who would not normally accept an animal on their property to all of a sudden accept one. It just does not happen that way. Not to mention the amount of abuse that is ongoing with ESA animals. Just think you can go online and register your pet as an ESA then force a landlord to take you and your pet as a tenant. That is essentially what this bill does. let me ask you if the ESA animal bites someone when they come to visit the house is the tenant the one that gets sued? No, it is the property owner that the person who was bit goes after. Not to mention the damage to the house. Until the home owner is no longer held liable for what a tenants ESA animal does I strongly oppose this bill.

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,

Mac MacDougall
25 10th St
Providence, RI 02906
macmacdougall@icloud.com