

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

P. O. Box 8763, Cranston, RI 02920 www.defendersofanimals.org
401-461-1922 Email: defendersanimals@aol.com

In Favor of House Bill H-8215

March 16, 2026

**House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you support Bill House Bill No. 8215 BY Serpa, Fellela, Read, Ackerman (Tenants with disabilities may request to keep an emotional support animal.)

The proposed legislation would allow a tenant with a disability that needs an emotional support animal to request and be approved by a landlord to keep an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing. The landlord would have the option to request supportive information to support the tenant's need for the emotional support animal.

Representative Serpa's legislation assures the following:

- **Verified disability**
- **Valid documentation from a licensed RI healthcare professional**
- **Provides a clear legal process.**

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated.

**Very sincerely yours,
Dennis Tabella
Dennis Tabella
Director**