

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Rose Russell <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2026 9:58 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** HB 8215 SUPPORT

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

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

Please support this reasonable bill that aligns the state with federal regulations so that a property manager can verify there is an actual need and not some fictitious story to avoid paying a legitimate a pet fee.

I urge you to support HB 8215, which offers much-needed clarity regarding emotional support animals in rental housing. By allowing landlords to request documentation from Rhode Island healthcare providers, it helps ensure that ESAs are available for those who genuinely need them but that the concept is not abused by those who do not.

This legislation respects the rights of tenants with legitimate needs for ESAs while also providing housing providers with a clear framework for verification. It brings our state laws in line with federal guidelines for service animals and focuses ESA recognition on dogs and cats. Requiring an existing relationship with a local healthcare professional helps prevent abuse of the system.

Passing this bill will foster better understanding and more consistent application of ESA accommodations, ultimately benefiting both tenants with genuine needs and housing providers seeking clear and fair guidelines. Please support this legislation.

Sincerely,

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