

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In Favor of House Bill H-5504

March 17, 2025

**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 H-5504 introduced by Representative Serpa, and cosponsored by Representatives Corvese, Caldwell, Ackerman, Potter, Azzinaro, and Read.

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**