

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Date

3-15-1989  
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MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The meeting was called to order by Marvin L. Littlejohn at  
Chairperson

1:30 a.m. on March 13, 1989 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Research  
Norman Furse, Revisor  
Sue Hill, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ann Conser, 4-H Club Project Leader (Puppy Raiser for Canine Companions  
Willynda Holmes, speaking in behalf of Representative Carl Holmes  
George Puckett, Executive Vice President of Ks. Restaurant Association  
(Printed testimony only)  
Phyllis Burge and Alex, Independent Living Specialist  
Gabriel Faimon, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, (SRS)  
Mike Oxford, Legislative Liaison/Department of Human Resources  
Senator Jerry Moran  
Ray Petty, Topeka Independent Living Resources  
Cathy Rooney, Department of H&E/Director of Health Credentialing Review  
Section of Bureau of Adult/Child Care  
Jim Pyles, Chief Consumer Products Safety Commission/Division of  
Bureau of Food/Drug/Lodging/of Department of Health/Environment  
Richard Gannon, Exec. Director/Ks. Board of Healing Arts  
Mr. Jim Murray, Canine Companions for Independence, California

Chair called meeting to order, drawing attention to busy Agenda, and asked conferees to be as concise and brief as possible so that all those scheduled would have an opportunity to present their remarks.

**HEARINGS BEGAN ON SB 36.**

Ann Conser, Puppy Raiser for Canine Companions offered hand-out, (Attachment No. 1). She drew attention to photos/news articles in her hand-out. She gave background of their family project; raising puppies to be used as Support dogs for the handicapped. The dogs they train go to school, church, and restaurants, sports activities, all environments. She detailed the training process, how the dogs learn commands, how they are tested, and re-tested before being placed with individuals. She cited specific cases where support dogs have made a big difference in the lives of those who are helped by this project. She explained, Service (support) dogs aid people with orthopedic challenges, Signal dogs alert the hearing-impaired, Social dogs are placed with individuals in Institutions as part of pet facilitated therapy, and Specialty dogs are trained to help those with multiple handicaps. She answered questions, i.e., no, they always get permission from restaurant owner before taking the dogs into a restaurant.

Mrs. Willynda Holmes offered hand-out, (Attachment No.2). She detailed reasons for requesting this legislation. HB 2146 was requested by her husband, Rep. Holmes. SB 36 was requested by Senator Moran. These two bills are nearly identical, so they have put their support to the passage of SB 36, and she urged members of this committee to do the same. She noted the packet of informational materials she had prepared that details this program, and noted Alex a Support dog, (who was present today), is the first Support dog in Kansas.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,  
room 423-S Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on March 13, 1989

HEARINGS CONTINUED ON SB 36:--

Mrs. Holmes directed attention to (Attachment No.3), a letter from the Kansas Restaurant Association, George Puckett, Executive Vice President stating their support of SB 36.

Phyllis Burdge offered printed testimony, (Attachment No.4), and she introduced Alex her support dog. She noted support dogs help people get back into the community and workforce to lead productive and ordinary lives. She and Alex have been together since August of 1987. Support dogs are placed with people who happen to have disabilities, not with "helpless people". Recipients must be able to provide the general care of the dog, i.e., feeding, grooming, harnessing. Support dogs augment the strengths of their partners and help offset weaknesses. They are highly trained over a two-year period. She detailed some of the help Alex is to her, i.e., opening doors, pulling her chair up hills, pulling her wheel chair into the car. She stated Alex is her lifeline to the world, and she considers Alex her living tool for independence. She noted 30 states have revised statutes to give full public access to support dogs. She urged for passage of SB 36. She answered questions, i.e., no the dog did not cost me \$7,000-\$8,000, he is valued at that price; the training Center in St. Louis has been in existence since 1980; no, people aren't afraid of Alex, startled sometimes perhaps at seeing him in places where dogs aren't usually seen, but not afraid.

Senator Jerry Moran offered his support to SB 36, noting Ms. Burge is a constituent in his District and he would like Statutes expanded so that Ms. Burdge and others will have access to public places for their

support dogs. It was decided on the Senate floor the restrictions placed in this bill would be for the certification and training of the dog, not the severity of the disability of the human being using the animal. He answered questions, i.e., perhaps a class of misdemeanor should be defined in the bill.

Gabe Faiman, Department of SRS, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services (Attachment No. 5), he noted the need for this legislation, i.e., these dogs serve as a tool for living independently, to assist persons with disabilities to function more independently in their homes/communities. Their Department is in full support of SB 36.

Mike Oxford, Department of Human Resources, (Attachment No. 6), stated they are in full support of this bill, which if enacted will have a very significant impact for those whose personal needs make the use of such animals necessary.

Ray Petty, Topeka Independent Living Resources, noted Ms. Burge has said it all in her testimony, telling committee the importance of SB 36. He noted the new Director of the Independent Living Center in Lawrence, Kansas will be on the job soon, and he too will have a support dog.

Ms. Burdge answered questions at this point, golden retrievers, lab retrievers, and smooth coated collies are used mostly as support dogs. She explained how Alex pulls her wheel chair into the car.

Chair stated except for Mr. Jim Murray, (who was delayed/but would give testimony yet today), HEARINGS CLOSED ON SB 36.

Chair asked Ms. Correll to give briefing on SB 102. Ms. Correll noted SB 102 is a technical bill. She detailed policy changes from July 1, 1989 to one year from the date the Rules/Regs are adopted. She detailed the bill section by section.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,

room 423-S Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on March 13, 1989

Chair recognized students from an American Government class from Hanston High School and thanked them for their attendance.

**HEARING BEGAN ON SB 102:-**

Cathy Rooney, Department of Health/Environment (Attachment No.7), noted Ms. Correll had outlined sections of HB 102, so she would not repeat it, however, she drew attention to section 4, i.e., the law allows the Secretary to revoke a license if the dietitian has been found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony crime related to the practice. There were questions in regard to section 4, i.e., how many would be grandfathered in, (perhaps 500-700), those currently in practice; no, if the misdemeanor is not related to the practice, it would have no bearing at all; detailed explanation of education requirements were discussed.

Mr. Dick Morrissey, Department of Health and Environment also answered questions, i.e., what their Department is trying to correct is the language that deals with requirement on supervision of a licensed dietitian. We are trying, he said, to better define this supervisory requirement. Ms. Rooney answered question, yes, our legal Department says lines 95-97 are just clean up.

**HEARINGS CLOSED ON SB 102.**

**HEARINGS BEGAN ON SB 103.**

Jim Pyles, Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Food, Drug, and Lodging, (Attachment No.8), spoke to the support of SB 103. He noted they are asking language changes i.e., changing "cleaned" and "sanitized" for "sterilized" and "disinfected". He answered numerous questions, i.e., yes, it would be difficult to enforce the law if someone was selling bedding products at garage sales and auctions; he explained process of feather sterilization; their Department directs people where they may obtain the "disinfecting and sterilization" process when they call in with questions; We are trying to make an old law make sense for today he stated.

After lengthy questioning, Chair stated in the interest of time, he would ask questions cease, and he thanked Mr Pyles.

**HEARINGS CLOSED ON SB 103.**

**HEARINGS BEGAN ON SB 198.**

Richard Gannon, Kansas Board of Healing Arts, (Attachment No.9), spoke to support of SB 198. He noted within the Respiratory Therapy field there is more than one level of credentialing. If their Board should have to administer tests for the Therapists, they are asking their Board to recoup the actual cost of the examination and costs associated with its administration. He answered numerous questions, i.e., the person taking the exam pays directly to the National Association; if there is need for clean-up language in order to clarify the situation of fees for examinations given by their Board, they have no objection to that.

**HEARINGS CLOSED ON SB 198.**

Mr. Jim Murray, Canine Companions, Inc. was invited by Chair to offer his comments on SB 36. Mr. Murray offered to answer questions since testimony had been given. He is a trainer of dogs for this program. He noted they have had good support from the state of Kansas; they are a non-profit organization in existence for 13 years; have placed over 300 dogs; have a waiting list of 2½ years; have a fee of \$125 for processing, and this fee also serves as a commitment by the individual who will receive the dog; he spoke of their benefactors; how funds are raised.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,  
room 423, Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on March 13, 1989.

Mr. Murray continued on SB 36.-----

He answered questions in regard to what happens to the dog if their owner dies, some can be retrained if necessary, some are retired.

He thanked members of the committee for their patience at his being late for the meeting. (Delayed flight)

Chair drew attention to committee minutes.

Rep. Amos moved to approve minutes of February 27, February 28th, and March 1st, as written. Motion seconded by Rep. Wiard. Motion carried.

Chair drew attention to agenda for the balance of this week and the full agenda for next week.

Meeting adjourned.

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date 3-13 1989

Name	Organization	Address
Clarke Davis	Press	Valley Falls, ks.
Cory Wheat	School	Hanston KS
Brent Salmons	" "	" "
<del>Tom Salmons</del>	" "	" "
Ave Seiff	" "	" "
Jamie Cure	" "	" "
Oliver Salmons	High School	Hanston KS. 67849
Tim Hulp	" "	" "
Allyl Johnson	SRS	Topeka
Amanda Holbert	Cloud Co. 4-H & CCI puppy raiser	Concordia, KS.
<del>Angie Dwyer #4</del>	High School	Hanston, KS 67849
James Barker	"	"
Roberta Burke	"	"
Kristie Jones	"	"
Dippee Salmama	High School	Hanston, KS
Hanston 4A State champs.	" "	Hanston, KS.
<del>Sarah</del> Sarah Holbert	Cloud Co. 4-H & CCI puppy raiser	Concordia, KS
Amy E. Kobuszewski	CCI & XUMA	Valley Falls, KS.
Ann Conser	CCI Puppy Raiser / Co. 4H	Valley Falls, KS
Mike Alford	KAC EHS/DIR	Topeka
Mike Lechner	"	"
Ray Petty	Topeka Independent Living Resource Center	Topeka
Gabriel B. Faerman	SRS/ Rehab Svcs	Topeka



# Partners with Paws



PHOTO PROPERTY OF CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE. USED WITH PERMISSION.

*Altman #1.*

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TO: Chairman Littlejohn and Distinguished Representatives on  
the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to visit with you a few minutes today. My name is Ann Conser and I am from Valley Falls, Kansas just north of Topeka. I am a third grade teacher there in my seventeenth year of teaching. My husband, Bill and I have been the Jefferson County 4-H Dog Project leaders for about fifteen years. My oldest son, Andy, 16, is here with me today. Although Justin, my 10 year old, is not here he is just as important a part of our very special family project--that of being a "Puppy Raiser" family for Canine Companions for Independence also known as CCI.

In our society today there exists a very special group of people. These people are, through no choice of their own, physically or emotionally disabled. For many, their disability may have come overnight, the result of an accident. For some, it may have always been there since birth and for others it may have come on slowly and progressively with multiple sclerosis or muscular dystrophy. For all of them, their loss of independence is shattering to say the least. To become totally dependent on others is a frustration and devastation beyond comprehension. Picture yourself no longer able to reach down and pick up the pencil you dropped or the car keys. An elevator button just out of reach as is the light switch. Doing the simplest of tasks that you and I take for granted is a virtual impossibility. Many of these people have a new found freedom with their partner with paws.

Assistant dogs generally fall into four main categories:

1. SERVICE- aids people with orthopedic challenges
2. SIGNAL- alert the hearing-impaired and deaf to crucial sounds
3. SOCIAL- placed with individuals or in institutions as part of Pet Facilitated Therapy
4. SPECIALTY- trained for those with multiple handicaps.

Do these specially bred and trained dogs really work? You can ask any number of people. For example, Mike Knowlton of Windsor, CA told a huge tv audience last Wednesday on National Geographic's "Those Wonderful Dogs" how he has returned to finish high school and now has plans to go on to a vo-tec school to learn computer programming. Younger children are now more able to attend public school. Nadia, a college student that is 80% deaf says she feels so much safer in the world because her SIGNAL dog warns her of bikes and people coming up behind her as well as now being able to sleep more soundly at night knowing that her signal dog will let her know if someone tries to break in or a fire alert goes off. You could ask Allison's parents how they feel

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about their autistic daughter's Corgi named Quality. The first night she spent with Allison the intuitive canine took it upon herself to snuggle next to the child at bedtime. In the morning, Allison's mother found her daughter still fast asleep, with her arm thrown over the cuddly Corgi. What is so special about that---at age 12, Allison had NEVER SLEPT THROUGH A NIGHT. Quality has also evoked a verbal response where no human could. Other SOCIAL DOGS are busy bringing love and joy to those special, precious people in nursing homes whose lives are now so different, many of whom left a beloved friend behind when circumstances dictated they needed special care. The SPECIALTY dog may be the one to help a person that is hearing impaired as well as physically challenged.

To become an assistant dog there is a certain process followed. The specially bred puppies are sent to puppy raisers like our family. With us they learn love, trust and are socialized. CCI puppies learn about forty commands with the puppy raisers during the 12 to 18 months they spend with them. Socialization is critical. These puppies must be exposed to as large a variety of experiences as possible. Their reactions to all different stimuli is carefully documented and sent in to the regional centers monthly. The puppy is introduced to different situations according to their confidence level and ability to handle things. For example, I did not bring our current puppy today as I am not 100% sure the puppy is ready for politics!!! In about a week a half day of school will be started with a full day commencing the following week.

Our goal for our puppies is that they go to a child. Spending mornings with Andy in the high school and afternoons with Justin or me in the grade school increases that possibility. Our school board has been so very cooperative with letting us bring them to school during the days and the activities at night such as music programs and basketball games. Attending church and Sunday School are also big on the list. We are so fortunate to live in a community that has given such support to us.

After the time with us has passed the puppy is returned to the regional center for six months of intensive training with the professionals. There they learn the rest of what will eventually total 89 working commands. Pulling the wheelchair, light switches, and pressing the elevator buttons are just a few they will learn. The dogs in training are tested and retested again and again, in public and private, to make certain they are consistent and reliable workers.

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In this day and age of self-service and profit-making, some of you may be sitting there wondering what I myself have to gain by being a puppy raiser. I am afforded the ability to share the wealth of my health to someone less fortunate than this very richly blessed person. If what my family and I do will help someone get into the mainstream of life there is no price tag that can cover it. People are afraid of someone in a wheelchair or on crutches because they don't know what to say to them--people with an assistant dog are at a definite advantage because the dog serves as an ice-breaker along with all the other things they do. Hopefully my class, will learn empathy for and understanding of those that may be different and that it is okay to care. One of my students had me send her drawing back to the regional center to be given to the person who gets Nebraska, our first CCI puppy. A copy of it is at the end of your booklet. It seemed to me to reflect completely what young Tyler Lundgren of Greeley, Colorado, (on the front cover of the booklet) seems to be saying "Thank you Lord, for my CCI Dog."

Ladies and gentlemen, I urge you today to recommend the passage of Senate Bill No. 36. By doing so, you help open the door to a difference in quality of life and a new sense of freedom! If anyone has any questions I will answer them to the best of my ability or perhaps someone here in support could answer.

Again, my deepest thanks for your attention and your consideration of this bill.

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# Man's best friend... ...and constant companion

By STEPHEN GIBBS  
Capital-Journal staff writer

Ann Conser and son Andy are about to part with a loved one, but are confident in the knowledge they have fulfilled a promise to a friend.

The Consers used to assist a quadriplegic woman who lived near their rural Valley Falls home. The woman had a dog that was loving, but not well-trained. The Consers, who have a strong background as 4-H dog raisers and trainers, promised their neighbor they would take care of her dog and start obedience training for it the next time she had to go into the hospital.

"She died last July while we had her dog," Ann explained. "So we feel we have this unfinished business. We're doing this in Elaine's memory."

The Consers are the first family in Kansas to participate in Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) — a program to raise and train dogs to assist the physically handicapped by performing simple tasks the handicapped person might not otherwise be able to do (like turning on a light switch).

The Golden Retriever came to Valley Falls a year ago as a four-month-old pup. But their time with Nebraska is drawing to a close.

"The closer it gets," Ann said, "the weaker I get."

Nebraska is a specially bred dog who is finishing a year's training by the Consers. She will be returned next month to CCI's regional office in Orient, Ohio. There, she will receive six months of intensive training before being turned over permanently to a physically handicapped person for companionship and physical assistance.

By that time (probably in May), Nebraska will understand and respond to 89 commands, becoming a physical extension of her disabled recipient.

Responding to vocal commands, she will be able to pull a wheelchair, press elevator buttons, turn on/off light switches, fetch a dropped pencil or key chain, and get groceries off of a shelf.

And she will be a good companion.

"Dogs are a good ice-breaker," Ann said.

"People who are otherwise afraid to talk to a disabled person can use the companion dog as an 'excuse' to start up a conversation."

Ann said that although CCI is selective about where they place their dogs for training, "Anybody who has an interest, who loves dogs, can do this. You don't have to be a breeder or run a kennel,

just have the desire."

Now that their first CCI puppy is nearing the end of its stay, the Consers are more confident than ever that the CCI program successfully serves an important function, and it is worth continued participation.

"The good Lord just leads you in certain directions," Ann said. "We feel very strongly about this program."

The Consers are happy to be participating in a program they know yields such good results. But that labor of love has to be strong.

CCI trainers are expected to:

- pay all veterinary and feeding expenses (although the Consers are quick to point out that local veterinarian Denise Kobuszewski has contributed about \$300 worth of services)

- provide transportation to and from CCI offices

- provide around-the-clock training, which means taking Nebraska everywhere they go

- give the dog up at the end of the training session.

As part of the program, trainers are expected to love and care for their dogs as if it was their's for life. The Consers have done that, but are now preparing to part forever with what Ann calls "the most intelligent dog she has ever raised."

But the Consers won't be the only ones who will miss Nebraska. Most of the population of this small town have grown accustomed to seeing Nebraska at sporting events, at church, in stores, and at school.

Nebraska began accompanying Andy to Valley Falls High School in March. She spends the morning attending classes with him, then he turns the dog over to his mother (a third grade teacher) at lunch. Nebraska then spends the afternoon lying quietly next to Ann's classroom desk.

It is crucial, Ann said, to indoctrinate Nebraska into everyday social settings.

"There is a time limit for getting them out," she said. "You need to get them into a social environment."

When Nebraska eventually is placed permanently with her handicapped mate, she will be his/her constant companion. The Consers are trying to prepare her for that.

"She must learn to sit quietly in class and be obedient," Andy said.

That's a challenging task for a dog that gets petted dozens of times a day by hundreds of little, loving hands. But even when a familiar face, such as Andy's girlfriend, calls to Nebraska, she must

stay put, always ready to serve her (handicapped) master.

By the time Nebraska is shipped back to the Ohio regional office, she will already know 25-30 of the 89 vocal commands she'll eventually need to know.

"She's so intelligent," Ann said. "She knew the actions already, we just taught her the words."

The Consers received a bonus a few weeks ago. The dog they had hoped would be waiting at the airport to replace Nebraska, arrived early. Ann said that Utica and Nebraska have already become good friends — which isn't going to make parting with Nebraska any easier.

"I have to get my tape out and watch it to remind me what I'm doing this for so I can let go."

Continued on page 4C, column 3



Andy Conser keeps Nebraska at his side during classes at Valley Falls High School.

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Valley Falls Vindicator  
Oct. 27, 1988



The Conser brothers with CCI dogs

## Utah is Nebraska's replacement

by Marveta Davis

Utah, a four-month-old golden retriever, is the newest member of the Bill Conser family at Valley Falls. The dog has come for training in the Canine Companions for Independence program, a program to raise and train dogs to assist the physically handicapped.

Utah arrives just as the family will have to say goodbye to the first dog they trained, Nebraska, now 11 months old and ready to enter the second phase of training in Ohio before finding a permanent master. The family hopes diving into training Utah will help ease the pain of saying goodbye to Nebraska.

Bill and Ann Conser and sons, Andy, a sophomore at Valley Falls High School, and Justin, a fourth grader, believe it will be a somewhat easier task the second time around but say they've never encountered a more intelligent dog than Nebraska.

Nebraska is known throughout Valley Falls, having been a guest at

the family's church and at many social and school functions throughout the community. Nebraska is so popular with one of Andy's high school teachers, James Chulo, that she has her own desk to lie under, she is on the attendance list, and, Chulo says, she'll even get a report card along with her fellow students.

"Mr. Chulo even had her on the absentee list once when she was sick," Andy said. "The whole town will miss her." Justin says Nebraska participates in games and recess with his classmates when she visits in his classroom.

"We couldn't be happier with the support the town has given us. The Valley Falls Board of Education has shown great faith in us in letting us take Nebraska to all of the school events," Andy said.

The Consers took Utah over other pups because she has a scar and they believe she might have been rejected by other families who prefer "the perfect cuddly pup," Ann said. Utah acci-

dentally swallowed some fox tails and had to have surgery to remove them from her throat. She is also from a "broken home" explains Andy, meaning, like Nebraska, she began her training in another home but the family divorced.

Even after Nebraska leaves in December, the family has hopes of seeing her again. They have been saving to make the trip back to Ohio to see her graduate and meet her new master.

Andy said he hopes they can train three or four more dogs before he goes off to college. It's an expensive venture. The family pays for all the dogs expenses and they credit family friend, Dr. Denise Kobuzewski, local veterinarian, with donating some services for the dogs.

The Consers weren't sure that Nebraska's knowledge was rubbing off on Utah.

"Nebraska seems to be reverting to puppydom at times," Ann said.

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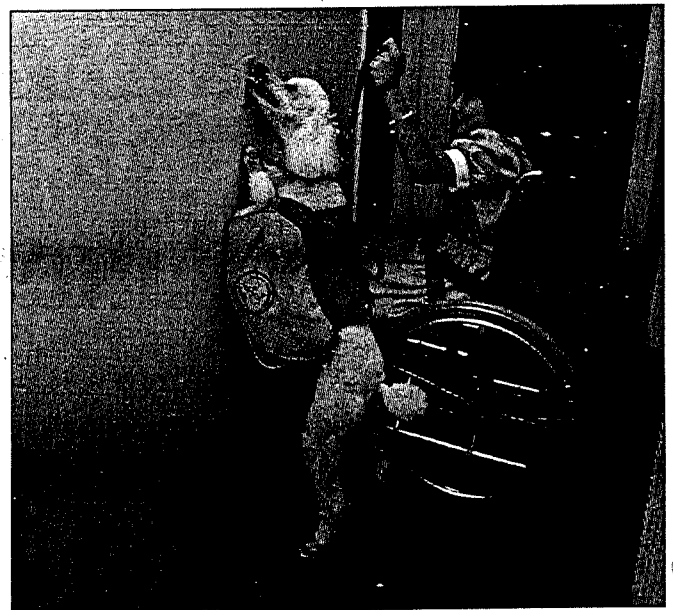
This working dog waits with her owner.

## Some Dogs Go to School

Some dogs in the U.S. go to a special school. They go to the school to learn how to help people.

The dogs at the school learn to open doors. They learn to carry books and turn on lights. The dogs learn to pull people in wheelchairs.

The dogs go to homes when school is over. They live with people who need help. Sometimes the dogs help people who cannot stand or walk. Sometimes they help cheer people who are sad and need a friend.



Jessie Morgan tells her dog to turn on the light.

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To: You  
From: Misty Heisen



PK (all)  
attn. #1  
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3-13-9

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Additional reading and pictures about these special "partners with paws" from Canine Companions for Independence can be found in the following:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD - August, 1985 pp. 25-29

LIFE - November, 1986 pp. 50-55

READER'S DIGEST - "A Dog for Kris" July, 1986 pp. 127-131

RANGER RICK - February, 1988 pp. 19, 27-28

DOGS USA - 1988 Annual Issue pp. 106-107

FAMILY CIRCLE - "Christopher's New Life" December 20, 1988 pp. 119-120

The following videos are available from Canine Companions for Independence:

"What a Difference a Dog Makes" narrated by Charles Schultz

"Wonder Dogs Helping the Disabled" from ABC-TV's 20/20 program

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Testimony  
SB 36  
Public Health and Welfare Committee

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Willynda Holmes, wife of Rep. Carl Holmes, and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of SB 36. I am here today representing the concerns of my husband and his constituents regarding access to public places for handicapped persons.

Last summer, a number of our friends and constituents in Liberal brought a problem to our attention. A former Liberal resident, Phyllis Burdge, now residing in Hays, had been denied access to a public restaurant because she was accompanied by a support dog. Support dogs for the physically handicapped are a fairly new phenomenon, and she has the first one in Kansas. Kansas Statute 39-1102 allows guide dogs for the blind access to public places, and 39-1107 allows assistance dogs for the hearing impaired access to public places. SB 36 broadens the statutes to include support dogs for the physically disabled person.

My husband introduced HB 2146 addressing this problem, but, since SB 36 was almost identical, and had passed that body unanimously, he and your Chairman felt it would expedite matters to use the Senate bill. Neither the house of origin or the sponsoring legislator's name is important. The real concern here is changing the statutes to provide public access for a new service--support dogs--now available to physically handicapped persons.

I have prepared a packet of information about support dogs,

*PH & W  
attm # 2  
3-13-9*

the organization that provides this service free, and the broad range of tasks that a support dog can perform. Support dogs are specifically trained to supply help with the individual needs of each owner. As in the case of Kansas first support dog, Alex, he provides unique assistance to Phyllis Burdge, which allows her to live and work independently.

I will be pleased to stand for questions, but I feel this committee would prefer to utilize its valuable time hearing from and observing Phyllis Burdge and Alex. I appeal to your compassion and sense of fairness to support and pass SB 36.

Thank you.

PA&W  
attn #2  
3-13-9

Support Dogs for the Handicapped, Inc. - St. Louis

# SPECIAL FRIENDS

BULLETIN

AUGUST 1988



As you know, our official newsletter, PAWS for a CAUSE is mailed out only twice yearly. This complimentary copy of the Special Friends Bulletin is being sent to everyone on our mailing list as a follow up to our July 30th celebration. We hope you enjoy it and will become a subscriber.

September 1988 will mark the beginning of the second year for the Special Friends Bulletin. This monthly publication features news on our placements and alumni -- details on upcoming events, activities, fundraisers and much more. Your annual donation of \$5 helps us defray the cost of mailing the Bulletin. We encourage you to subscribe now. Just use the handy subscription form on the reverse side.

## A WRAP-UP ON THE 1988 AWARENESS CELEBRATION

First of all, the biggest THANK YOU we know how to give -- to all who attended & all who worked on Saturday July 30th!! Listing everyone would take more paper than we can afford and there were so many of you -- we just don't want to forget anybody. Suffice to say -- we all had a wonderful time & we'll count on you again next year (planning will begin at the August 24th General Meeting).

## SPECIAL THANKS

To **Frank O. Pinion** of **KIX 104** for his lively interview with **Sue DeWitt** previewing our event. The phone rang off the hook -- thanks to his loyal listening audience.

To **Bonnie Rasmussen** and our friends at the **St. Louis Artists' Guild** who loaned us easels for the **Support Dog Fair**. Since we called on them to rescue us at the last minute, we weren't able to properly acknowledge them in our program.

To **Jim Penrod** for his extraordinary videotape of the day/evening events.

To **Norm Worthy** and **Bill Abbott** of the **Iams Company** and **Nutri-Pet** of **Lenexa, Kansas** -- who not only supplied sample dog food products and literature, but hosted a table during the **Support Dog Fair**, answering questions and enthusiastically joining in the festivities.

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

We're pleased to announce the winner of the Wedding Bears attendance prize at the **Support Dog Fair** was **Marci Zimmerman**. **Marci** and her dog **GRIT** are among our most recent graduates -- and she's the lucky winner of the bride & groom teddy bears donated by **Rose Flowers**. We couldn't have imagined a more perfect match.

#23  
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3013-9





FROM THE SUPPORT DOG MAILBOX

A note to Marilyn & JOCKO, Mary & Martha Murphy & T. J., Dorothy and Dolores Bossaller: Thank you for your support, encouragement, ideas, and patience that I received before and during the Wag-a-thon. I love you all!!!

Thank you to my friends in Carbondale: Earlene and Stephanie Shelley, Jack Winchester, Robin Anderson, Karen Keil, and Martha Tacha - who gave me support, encouragement, ideas, and helping hands and said to me after the Wag-a-thon, "Okay, what's next?" What would I have done without you!!

And to my partner, SHANNON. Without you there would have been no Wag-a-thon. GOOD GIRL! You've brought me independence, support, dignity, love, encouragement, and laughter. You're my girl and I love you.

Love,

Leanne Harpole

Editor's note: The Wag-a-thon featured \$\$\$ pledged for each wag of Support Dog SHANNON's tail while devouring a Dairy Queen frozen dessert. The event resulted in media exposure, lots of fun, and the contributions are still rolling in! But the Wag-a-thon is just the tip of the Harpole iceberg! Stay tuned for more on French Fry Wars and Battle of the Fast Foods. Our hat's off to the PAWS for a CAUSE Outreach of Southern Illinois!

Monday, September 19th, the St. Louis Cardinals will face the Pittsburgh Pirates at Busch Stadium - game time 7:35 PM. (There'll be an on-field demo for Support Dogs at 6:45 PM). We have a large block of tickets available. If we sell more than 100 tickets to the game, a portion of the proceeds will benefit Support Dogs. To buy a ticket or for more information, contact Linda Mertz, at 892-6847.



P.O. Box 966  
St. Louis, MO 63044

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PHYLLIS BURDGE  
2015 PATIO #7  
HAYS, KS 67601

H!

Attn #2  
Pg 5  
3-13-9

**PAWS FOR A CAUSE**

The most recent Team Training took place immediately following the July 30th celebration. **Phyllis Burdge** of Hays, Kansas was teamed with **ALEX**, the first dog placed from our canine breeding program. **Phyllis** has multiple sclerosis and uses **ALEX** to pull her wheelchair, transfer to and from her chair, open doors, and retrieve the phone and many other items.

As you may or may not know, those with MS are extremely sensitive to heat. (And we don't have to tell anyone about St. Louis weather in recent weeks!) Sunday, July 31st, **Phyllis** transferred between hotels in our **Support Dog** van which is not air-conditioned. Even holding a bag of ice on her lap, twice during the trip she fainted from the heat and exertion, arriving with barely enough strength to get into bed. Her training schedule was in real jeopardy -- without air-conditioned transportation, we'd be forced to work the team only indoors at the hotel.

**Betty Hildebrandt** refused to accept this and a number of phone calls later, **Support Dogs** had the use of an air-conditioned van for Team Training. A Dodge RAM van was made available through the efforts of **John Martel** and **Al Edward** of **Chrysler Motors P-CAP** (Physically Challenged Assistance Program, Detroit, MI) and **Andi Cox** with **VPSI** (subsidiary of **Chrysler Motors**) **St. Louis County Van Pool**. (Additional information on the P-CAP program is available through the **Support Dog** office).

At **Support Dogs St. Louis**, we pride ourselves on operating a very lean program. Dollars raised and contributions received go directly into teams placed, with few luxuries afforded to our staff and volunteers. Until now, we considered our donated van (with no insulation and no air-conditioning) adequate, no matter how uncomfortable. This is no longer the case. We cannot continue to allow the weather to dictate our clients' training schedules.

**Phyllis** is back home in Kansas now - beginning a new life with **ALEX**. It would have been an injustice to both to have delayed their partnership or curtailed their training. The loan of the **Chrysler** van was only a temporary solution to what is now a very real and permanent need. One among many.

We value your continued support. That extra donation now - contacting that friend or relative or business associate who could help -- that call you make on our behalf -- the extra effort that shows you really care about the important work we're doing.

That's what being a Special Friend is all about.

-----  
YES, I WANT TO HELP. HERE'S MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

PLEASE APPLY \$5 OF THIS AMOUNT TOWARD MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SPECIAL FRIENDS BULLETIN.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SUPPORT DOGS, INC.

MAIL TO: PAWS for a CAUSE P.O. BOX 966 St. Louis, MO 63044

*Attn #2  
P96  
3-13-9*

# 15 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SUPPORT DOGS - AND THEIR ANSWERS

## CANINE SELECTION

- 1 **Where do you get the dogs?**  
From our own breeding program and through reputable breeders throughout the country.
- 2 **Why not rescue shelter dogs?**  
Because the dog's unknown past history (genetics, life experience, injuries, etc.) could seriously effect his potential as a working dog.
- 3 **What breeds do you use?**  
Primarily from the sporting group - golden retrievers and laborador retrievers. From the working group - shepherds, dobermans, and smooth collies. Some cross-bred dogs and other breeds are considered on an individual case basis.
- 4 **Which sex animal is better for this work, male or female?**  
We use both sexes.
- 5 **Are the animals neutered?**  
Yes - so the working dog's behavior isn't effected by hormonal changes.
- 6 **What's the smartest kind of dog?**  
We're looking for intelligent animals regardless of breed or sex. Beyond intelligence, however, we look for a high desire to please, predictable behavior, and those dogs who readily form an affectionate bond with humans.
- 7 **What kind of vet care do the dogs receive?**  
Through Support Dog's comprehensive veterinary program each dog's health is continually evaluated, insuring that he's physically sound enough to perform the work.
- 8 **What do the dogs eat?**  
While in formal training, a high quality high protien feed is used. After placement, we recommend a maintenance diet of a high quality food of a known brand - no table scraps or hand feeding.
- 9 **How long do the dogs live?**  
A working dog's life expectancy is the same as any other dog's.
- 10 **Isn't this life hard on the dogs?**  
A Support Dog's level of activity is healthier than that of the average house pet.
- 11 **When do the dogs play? Working life/personal life**  
At home, with his harness off, this is just another dog.

## CANINE TRAINING

- 12 **What do these dogs actually do?**  
Carefully pre-matched and trained for his partner's special needs, the Support Dog can perform any combination of the the following tasks, as required:
  - maneuver alongside a wheelchair
  - retrieve dropped objects
  - pull a wheelchair up a ramp
  - pull open heavy doors
  - "rise up" to a high countertop
  - "stand & brace" to help someone up from a fall
  - provide balance walking up/down stairs
  - activate a "send help" device
  - and much more...
- 13 **How long does a puppy remain in its foster home?**  
From 7 weeks old until it's ready for formal training.
- 14 **How old are the dogs when they begin formal training?**  
Generally from 13-16 months old, once the individual dog passes adolescence and exhibits enough maturity.
- 15 **How long does formal training take?**  
6-8 months working with the Support Dog trainer
- 16 **Where do the dogs go for training?**  
To the training facility in Pevely, Missouri
- 17 **Are the dogs trained to protect?**  
A dog's natural protective instincts are more reliable than aggression training. Often the dog's physical presence alone serves as a deterrent.
- 18 **What rewards does the dog get?**  
Affection and praise from his partner is the Support Dog's only "treat". This is the case throughout the dog's life -- in the foster home and during his formal training.

*P.H.W.  
attn #2  
Pg 7.  
3-13-9*

**19 What kinds of disabilities do you serve?**

Neuromuscular diseases, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, birth defects -- these are some of the disabilities we serve. Each applicant is processed on the basis of his/her special needs and capabilities.

**20 If a person can't afford to care for the dog, will SDH help?**

Dogs are placed only with partners who are financially capable of meeting the dog's basic needs.

**21 How does a disabled person take care of a dog?**

Based on his/her capabilities, SDH provides specialized equipment and a customized care program for each recipient.

ABOUT THE SUPPORT DOG TEAM

**22 How long can these dogs serve?**

There is no mandatory retirement age. As long as a dog remains healthy and is able to perform his work, he may continue in service.

**23 Are the dogs always with their person? Where do they sleep?**

Awake or asleep, the Support Dog is always at his partner's side.

**24 Can they go anywhere a guide dog goes?**

On a state by state basis, we're currently seeking amendments to existing public access laws to include "Support Dogs" and "dogs for the physically disabled".

**25 Should the public pet the dogs?**

Harnessed service dogs working in public should not be distracted from their focus on their partner.

FOLLOW UP

**26 How does SDH know people are taking good care of their dogs?**

We maintain an active graduate support program. An annual review of the team includes a comprehensive veterinary report.

**27 What happens when the dog retires/dies?**

In either case, the recipient may apply for another Support Dog. Depending upon circumstances, a retired Support Dog can live out his life in his partner's home or return to the Support Dog organization for care.

**28 What happens when the person's disability changes?**

Because SDH maintains an ongoing relationship with graduates, we're always available for problem solving and handling changes as they occur.

**29 What happens to the dog when the person dies?**

As agreed to by each recipient, in the event of his/her death, the Support Dog organization takes responsibility for the dog.

**30 Can a Support Dog be re-trained for another partner?**

On a case by case basis, age and other factors are taken into consideration. In most cases it is possible to place the dog with another partner.

FUNDING

**31 How much does it cost?**

It averages between \$7,000-8,000 to train a street certified Support Dog. The animals are placed at no cost to recipients or their families.

**32 Where does your money come from?**

Because Support Dogs are placed FREE OF CHARGE, all program costs are financed through donations from individuals and groups, gifts in kind, and grants.

**33 Are contributions tax deductible?**

Yes. Make checks payable to SUPPORT DOGS, INC.

**34 Where can I send a donation?**

SUPPORT DOGS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INC. - ST. LOUIS  
P.O. Box 966  
St. Louis, MO 63044

**35 How can I find out more about the Support Dog program?**

Through our newsletter PAWS FOR A CAUSE or by subscribing to our monthly Special Friends Bulletin (\$5 per year). Call our office (314) 739-3317 for more information.



*PAWS FOR A CAUSE  
Attm # 2  
3-13-9*





*Phyllis & Alex*



*Attn #2  
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3-13-9*

For those with a physical challenge in life, each day holds a series of obstacles to overcome - including many activities most of us would take for granted: picking up something dropped, opening heavy doors, climbing stairs. Now, specially trained dogs are turning these kinds of daily struggles into routine tasks for their disabled partners - through a St. Louis based non-profit organization - **SUPPORT DOGS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INC.**

Carefully pre-matched and custom-trained for the recipient's special needs, **SUPPORT DOGS** can be trained to:

MANEUVER ALONGSIDE A WHEELCHAIR  
 RETRIEVE DROPPED OBJECTS  
 PULL A WHEELCHAIR UP A RAMP  
 PULL OPEN HEAVY DOORS  
 "RISE UP" TO A HIGH COUNTERTOP  
 STAND & BRACE TO HELP SOMEONE UP FROM A FALL  
 PROVIDE BALANCE WALKING UP/DOWN STAIRS  
 ACTIVATE A "SEND HELP" DEVICE  
 AND MUCH MORE...

Since each street certified **SUPPORT DOG** is placed with his disabled partner **free of charge**, the expenses of the comprehensive program (\$7,000-\$8,000 per dog) are financed solely through donations from individuals and groups, gifts in kind, and grants.

We need your support to help us continue this valuable work. To make a contribution or for more information, contact:

P.O. BOX 966  
 ST. LOUIS, MO 63044  
 (314) 487-2004  
 (314) 739-3317



# Golden Retriever Works To Help Handicapped Person

By Brigitta M. Ruder

Alex is a big, beautiful golden retriever—a dog that just invites petting. However, should anyone see Alex and his partner, Phyllis Burdge, Hays resident, out and about, please don't pet him. Alex is a working dog and must concentrate on his job.

Alex is a support dog, trained to help his disabled partner, Phyllis Burdge. Burdge, who is in a wheelchair, was able to obtain Alex through a St. Louis-based non-profit organization called Support Dogs for the Handicapped, Inc.

Support dogs, Burdge stated, "are special dogs trained to help disabled people live ordinary lives." These dogs turn "inaccessible places into accessible places" for the handicapped, and they are "able to help some handicapped people regain the independence they've lost," she continued.

As a support dog, Alex, Burdge remarked, "does many, many things for me." For instance, Alex helps to pull Burdge in her wheelchair up ramps and over long distances. He also retrieves dropped objects or "things I simply might want," she said.

Additionally, if Burdge is out of the room when the cordless telephone rings, she can command Alex to get the telephone—he can pick it up by a special handle attached to it.

Because it is difficult for Burdge to reach back and shut doors, Alex does that for her, too. He also opens doors and holds them open for her, and he stands and braces Burdge when she wants to shift from her wheelchair to another surface.

Burdge said she first learned about such support dog services and the Support Dogs for the Handicapped organization by being around dogs and dog people while she was working with miniature schnauzers at dog shows, before she "became ill."

She stated she believed the support dogs concept was a "neat idea" and thought she might like to get into working with them somehow, when she no longer wanted to work with the schnauzers.

"I did get into it, but not exactly the way I intended," Burdge remarked. After her illness forced her to occupy a wheelchair, Burdge said she remembered the support dogs organization, obtained the address, and put in her application.

Burdge had to wait only a year to get a dog—she indicated she was lucky in this respect, because some people are put on a waiting list for

two to three years. Burdge and Alex met just over a month ago, when she went to St. Louis at the end of July to begin team training with her dog.

The team training lasts "usually between three to four weeks," Burdge remarked; however, she and Alex were in it for just two weeks and then a trainer came out to Hays and worked with them for four days.

In team training, the trainers "teach us to work as a team, and they teach me 14 basic commands," Burdge said. Burdge and Alex began working as a team under the supervision of the trainers, and they went through a "transition period," in which, Burdge commented, Alex learned to "transfer his loyalty from his trainer to me."

Even before the team training, Alex had actually been through about six to eight months training already. Burdge said that the support dogs organization gives all their service dogs training in basic skills then, after interviewing the handicapped recipient and determining that person's needs, the trainers train individual dogs to meet the specific needs of the person the dog will work with.

The dogs are started in individualized training only after their recipients' needs are determined, Burdge remarked, because different people have different needs. For example, she said a person with a powered wheelchair would not need a dog that could pull him/her up ramps or over long distances, but would need a dog that could open doors and retrieve objects.

The breeds of dogs trained as support dogs by Support Dogs for the Handicapped primarily include golden and Labrador retrievers, because of their temperament, their "husky, muscular build," and their "retrieval instincts," Burdge said.

However, Burdge continued, the organization has had success training as support dogs some collies, Great Danes, dobermans, German shepherds, and Shelties.

A good temperament is an essential quality that a support dog must possess, Burdge asserted. All potential support dogs are given a "temperament test," she said, "and if they fail, they are out."

A support dog "must be comfortable with being out in many different situations and with many different people without getting nervous. A support dog can't rattle easily," Burdge said.

Alex, according to Burdge, "will take a nap when he's down." Because of his ability to relax in any

situation, Burdge remarked that Alex is "rested up and ready to go when I call on him."

Thus, Burdge can and does take Alex wherever she goes, even to church and to restaurants. She said that when she took him to church, he moved only once, and that was just to shift his position.

When she goes to a restaurant with Alex, he curls up under the table. Alex conducts himself so well that Burdge remarked, "Unless they see us come in, most people are not even aware a dog is there until we leave."

Burdge admitted that she and Alex are still met with a great deal of surprise in some places. This, perhaps, is understandable—after all, Alex and Burdge are the first support dog team in the State of Kansas and one of the few in the nation.

Even though Alex and Burdge are a unique team in Kansas, it does not happen very often that they are denied access to some places, Burdge said.

Support dogs are governed under guide dog laws and have the same right to access as guide dogs for the blind, Burdge stated. If Alex's presence is questioned, Burdge presents letters of introduction from Topeka explaining her situation. Once the situation is explained to people, Burdge said there are usually "no problems."

Besides understanding Alex's right to access, Burdge said that people are also great at understanding why they cannot pet him. Alex is a working dog, and a working dog "must not be distracted," she commented. Alex is trained "to focus on me," she explained, and someone petting him might distract him when he is needed.

The Support Dogs for the Handicapped, Inc. organization places the support dogs with their disabled partners at no cost to the recipients or their families, Burdge remarked. The expenses of the comprehensive training program—\$7,000 to \$8,000 per dog—are financed through private gifts and donations.

Burdge said the only cost to her regarding Alex has been and will be for his monthly upkeep, high protein food, yearly vaccinations, and periodic checkups.

Anyone wanting more information about support dogs and the support dogs program can contact the Support Dogs for the Handicapped, Inc., P.O. Box 966, St. Louis Missouri 63044, (314) 487-2004 or (314) 739-3317.

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3-13-9 11275

## Canine Help For Burdge

# First Support-Dog Team Helps Liberal Native

By ESTHER GROVES  
Times Area Editor

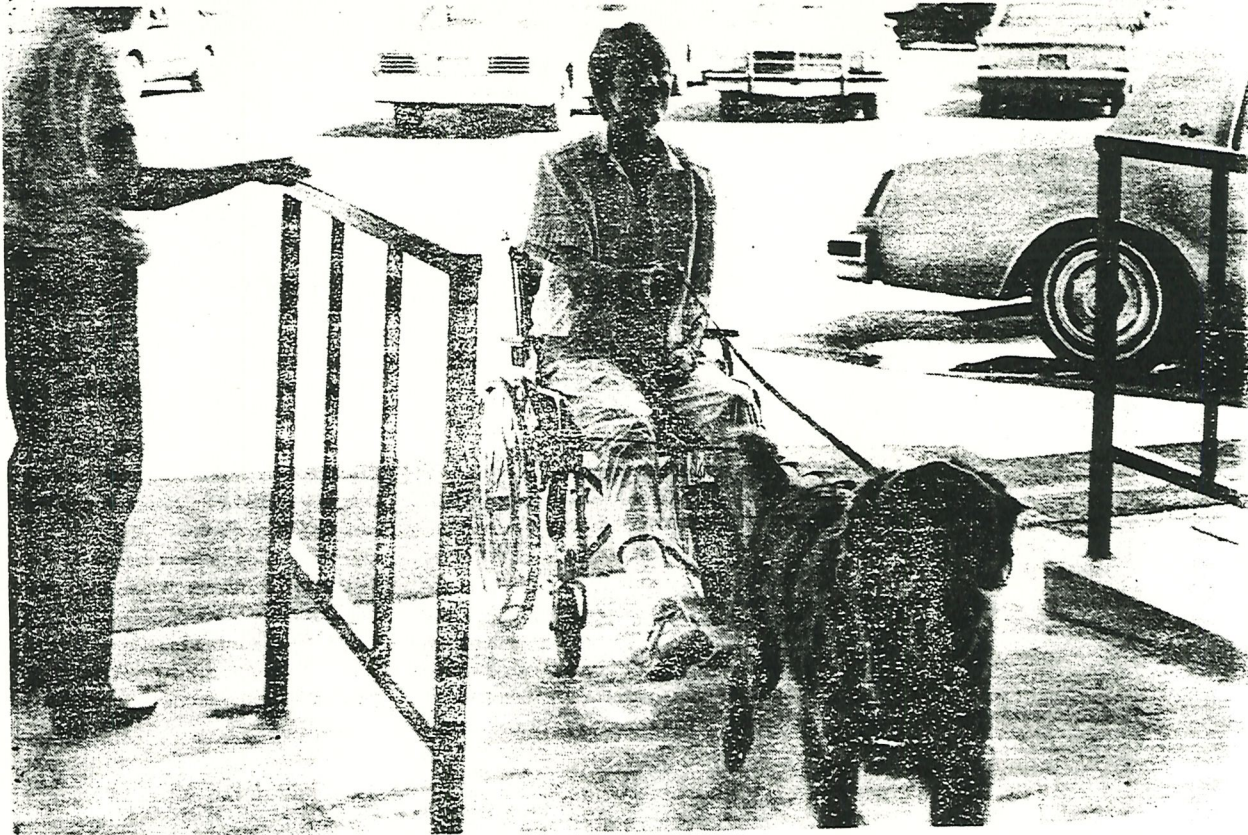
People shopping in Southgate Mall last weekend turned to watch when they saw a large golden retriever pulling a wheelchair with an attractive young woman seated in it.

The things 91-pound "Alex" can do

for Liberal native Phyllis Burdge!

Pull her wheelchair up a ramp. Hold the door open for her with a strap hooked to both the door and his collar. Take her wheelchair down the hall at a lively pace. Stand without moving while she uses him as a support to get back into her

wheelchair after having been out of it. Retrieve dropped keys or coins. Nap beside her while she visits. Pick up a cordless telephone by a special attachment when she is out of the room. Yank her 42½-pound wheelchair up an incline into her car.



**DOG POWER** pulls Liberal native Phyllis Burdge up ramp at Southgate Mall. Grace Lutheran Church and Aid Association of Lutherans financed her trip to train with her support dog Alex at Support Dogs for the Handicapped of St. Louis, Mo. Now working at Hays, Burdge also gives presentations at schools to fifth graders.

Times photos by Esther Groves

*PHOTOS  
ATTN #2  
pg. 11  
3-13-9*

Phyllis Burdge and Alex are "the first support-dog team in the state of Kansas, so we are pioneers and have some difficulties that, hopefully, the next team will not have."

The difficulties have to do with being admitted to stores, eating places and other business establishments.

Business people know many blind persons have Seeing Eye dogs. Now they are just beginning to learn deaf persons may be accompanied by hearing dogs. They have yet to discover support dogs, a new kind of assistance for persons with a physical disability.

**BURDGE HAS** only in recent years had an unusable left side. "I knew something was wrong in 1984 when I began having trouble with my left leg," she said. Multiple sclerosis was diagnosed in July 1986.

She determined to be as active as possible. "Last year I taught English literature and composition part time at Seward County Community College and I loved it," she said.

Still, there was no getting around the fact that persons with multiple sclerosis have decreased energy, and that various movements demanded a lot of energy.

Chemotherapy resulted in the loss of her hair, so she wore a wig. "I began having speech problems and lost my speech completely for two months. Then I began to lose the ability of my left arm."

That was so scary she went to the Rocky Mountain Research Institute in Denver, Colo., where she learned numbness does not last forever but comes and goes.

On top of everything else were marital problems that ended in divorce. A loved pet schnauzer went blind.

"During that time, when things were so black, I got really low," she said. Ministers gave her help, but it was a depressed time.

**THEN POSITIVE** things began to happen. Before her illness, Burdge had worked with miniature schnauzers at dog shows and had heard about support dogs. She applied to Support Dogs for the Handicapped Inc., St. Louis, Mo., and

this past summer, a year later, got one after being interviewed and matched with a dog with the attributes she would need.

Grace Lutheran Church hosted a benefit dinner to help fund the trip to St. Louis, where the non-profit organization trained her and Alex to work together.

Janie Irvin, of Social & Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation, and Diane Kennedy, of Projects With Industry, learned about a job opening with LINK — Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, part of Developmental Services for Northwest Kansas, Burdge said.

She applied, and today she is an independent living specialist at Hays, with Alex part of the team. In her work, helping persons with various disabilities "with adaptive equipment, funding, education, transportation, advocacy, veterans' benefits and so on," she finds Alex is both an icebreaker and a demonstration of support-dog service.

"I've been there long enough to know it's going to be rewarding," she said. "I value my independence and helping others get as much independence as they can."

**BEST OF ALL**, she said, her well-trained two-year-old "is my tool for independent living.

"I still can't get over the difference he makes in how I feel and the things I can do now. It's still a struggle, but it's so different. His doing things for me lets me have enough energy to do more."

At Support Dogs for the Handicapped, she said, "Alex was out of the first litter in their own breeding program. Having their own breeding program ensures better personality, structure and health."

At seven weeks old, puppies go into a puppy foster home for obedience training. At 15-16 months, they go to a trainer. Only dogs passing a good-temperament test may be support dogs.

Golden and Labrador retrievers are usually trained because of temperament, strong build and retrieval instincts, though other working dogs have also been trained successfully.

The support dog is matched to the new owner. Dogs are usually trained to work on a human's right side; but since Burdge's left side was disabled, Alex was trained for the left side. If Burdge had had a motorized wheelchair, she probably would have received a less husky dog. SRS Vocational Rehabilitation is arranging for a lighter wheelchair that will be easier for her and Alex to maneuver.

**HER ILLNESS** has been a teacher. "When I first started going out in public, people wouldn't look at me. They didn't want to be caught staring — but it hurts more to be ignored. Children are great — in my wheelchair, I'm the same height." She uses humor and jokes about her situation to create rapport.

After going through a dark period to discover doors opening for her, she said, "I now want to tell someone else going through a low place, 'Hang on; it will be better.'"

"I decided to take the best I can do and live and be happy, and maybe that will rub off on someone."

She must remind people not to pet her support dog. Alex is not an ordinary pet but a working dog who must focus on his owner and help her by means of his training and their relationship. He may not be distracted nor allowed to expect petting from anyone but her.

Because Alex was given to her free of charge — she pays for his monthly upkeep, high-protein food, vaccinations and checkups — Burdge feels she and Alex "are like ambassadors for Support Dogs for the Handicapped." She tells people about the service and encourages anyone interested to send donations, as expenses for the comprehensive program run about \$7,000-8,000 per dog. Persons wanting information on the program may write to P.O. Box 966, St. Louis, MO 63044, or call (314) 739-3317.

Attm #2  
PHW  
Pg 12  
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**LEANING FOR** support on Alex, her trained golden retriever, Phyllis Burdge pushes herself up into her wheelchair. "He can't do everything for me, but he saves me so much in exertion I can do more things," she said.

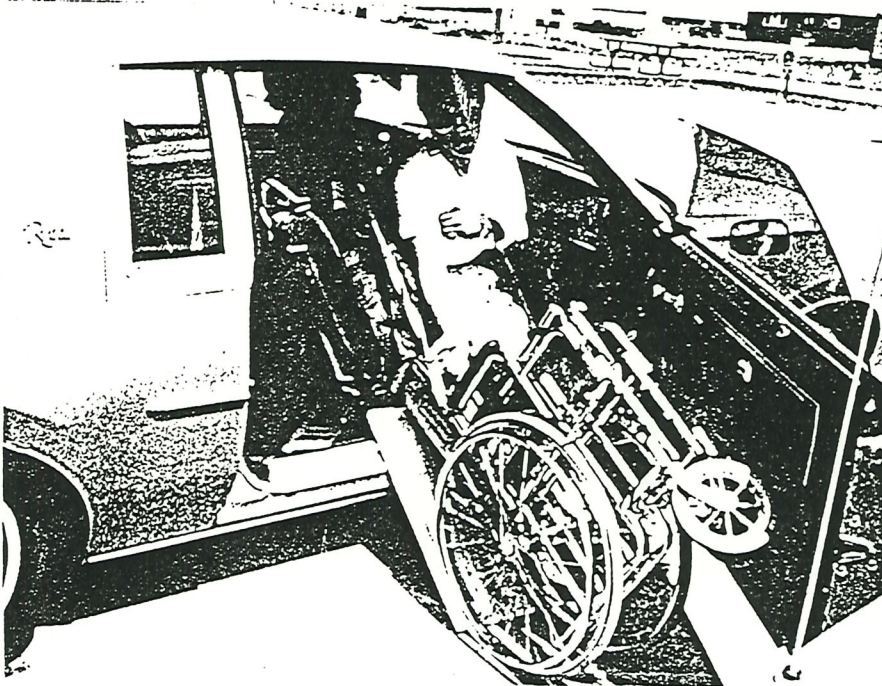
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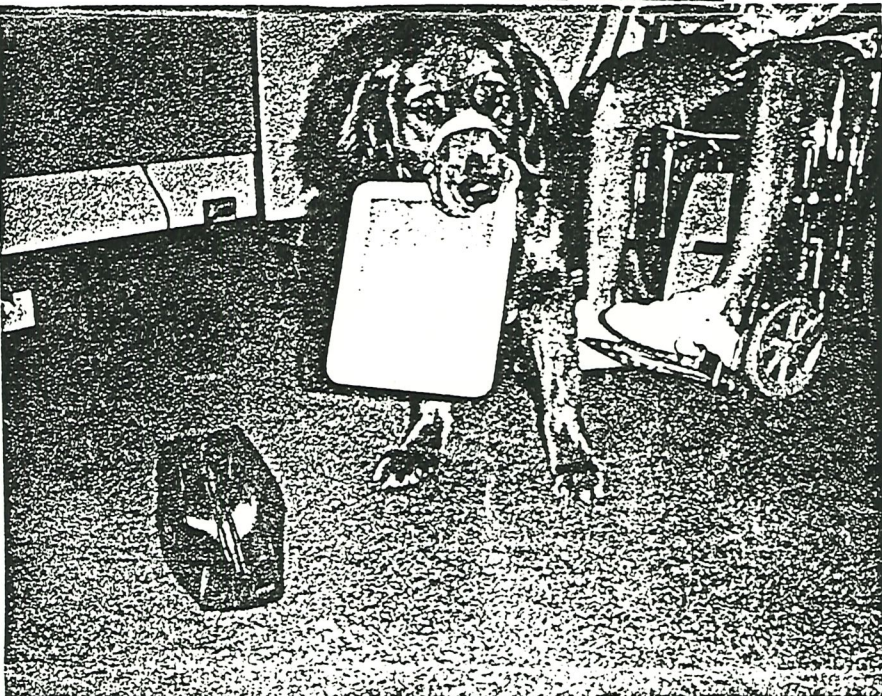
Phyllis Bur. E  
 (Daughter of Neil & Barbara  
 OEHME OF LIBERAL) and  
 her support dog  
 ALEXANDER -

Alex is pulling Phyllis  
 in her wheelchair across  
 a parking lot.

Phyllis is a MULTIPLE  
 Sclerosis (MS) VICTIM -  
 SHE HAS LOST TOTAL USE  
 OF HER LEFT ARM & LEG



Not seen, but behind  
 Phyllis inside the  
 car - Alex pulls  
 Phyllis's wheelchair  
 up a ramp into  
 the car - The  
 wheelchair weighs  
 42#



Alex picks up a  
 writing slate to  
 take to Phyllis



Alex picks up  
 an overnight kit  
 to take to Phyllis  
 Also takes her the  
 phone when it rings.  
 Picks up dropped  
 coins & keys -  
 Opens doors, etc

PH&W  
 Attn #2  
 pg 13.  
 3-13-9



# KANSAS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

359 SOUTH HYDRAULIC • P.O. BOX 235 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67201 • (316) 267-8383

March 8, 1989

The Honorable Carl Holmes  
House of Representatives  
Room 156E  
Statehouse  
Topeka, Kansas 66611

RE: SB 36

Dear Representative Holmes:

The Kansas Restaurant Association supports SB 36, which would create a new statute that gives persons with physical disabilities the right to be accompanied by a Support Dog that is especially trained and certified for the purpose of support of the physically disabled.

The KRA would be pleased to advise its membership of this important new law, if approved by the 1989 Kansas Legislature. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

George Puckett, Executive Vice President  
KANSAS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

*Ad+W  
attm # 3  
3-13-89*



Providing trained dogs to aid the physically challenged toward greater independence.

P.O. Box 966  
St. Louis, MO 63044  
(314) 487-2004  
(314) 739-3317

March 13, 1989

To: Members of the House Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: **Phyllis Burdge & Alex**  
**Independent Living Specialist**  
**(913) 625-2521 (V / TDD)**  
**317 W. 13th**  
**P.O. Box 1016**  
**Hays, KS 67601**

Support dogs help to get people back into the community and the workforce. We need passage of Senate Bill #36 to guarantee full public access so that those of us using support dogs can be active and productive and lead ordinary lives.

Climbing stairways (for those who are ambulatory), opening heavy doors, getting up from a chair--activities most people take for granted--can become a daily struggle for people with physical disabilities. Even with wheelchairs, braces or other mechanical aids, people with limited use of their arms or legs are often forced to depend on assistance from others to negotiate these barriers. With the aid of specially trained support dogs, many handicapped individuals can achieve remarkable INDEPENDENCE and overcome everyday obstacles with CONFIDENCE and DIGNITY.

Support dogs are not place with "helpless" people. They are placed with people who happen to have disabilities, and thereby special needs. The recipients themselves must be able to provide the general care of the dog such as feeding, grooming, harnessing, etc.

Support dogs augment the strengths of their partners and help to offset the weaknesses. Just as guide dogs for the blind offset the partners' visual impairments, and hearing assistance dogs offset hearing impairments, so support dogs offset their partners' physical impairments.

Support dogs are selected for the program according to strict standards concerning, among other things, temperament. They are highly trained over a two-year period. The program consists of canine selection, canine training, applicant processing, team selection, team training, and team follow-up.

**PAWS** FOR A **CAUSE**

*Phyllis  
attn # 4  
3-13-89*





Providing trained dogs to aid the physically challenged toward greater independence.

P.O. Box 966  
St. Louis, MO 63044  
(314) 487-2004  
(314) 739-3317

Some disabilities are relatively stable. Some are not. My condition is one of remissions and exacerbations. I had an exacerbation in November and was out of remission until quite recently. Because of Alex I was able to continue working throughout this (4 month) period of instability and remain independent.

Fatigue is always a problem and during an exacerbation it is a major one. Before Alex, fatigue did as much if not more toward limiting my activities than did paralysis and muscle weakness. I could perform many of the same tasks I could before my disability, but the energy toll was devastating. As a result I was unable to work full time or be truly active and productive. Now, Alex can perform the majority of those energy-robbing tasks and my strength can be saved for more important things.

Because of Alex I am able to live independently and contribute to my community. I work full time. I shop. I have an effective, living tool for independence in Alex; he opens many doors for me. I need the passage of Senate Bill #36 in order to keep those doors open.

I was denied access to a restaurant because my dog is not a seeing eye dog; the law did not cover support dogs. I was told that Alex would have to stay outside but that restaurant employees could push me to the table and see that I had everything I needed. First of all, it was over 100° outside and I wasn't about to leave a living thing in a car, nor was I about to tie an \$8000 animal in the shade and leave him unattended. Secondly, Alex is trained to provide safe, effective assistance; restaurant employees are not.

This incident effectively curtailed the independence Alex is capable of providing me. Revision of the law is necessary.

A brief word about cleanliness and deportment: Alex is my lifeline to the world. It is in my best interest then to keep him in top condition, parasite free, clean and healthy. It is also in my best interest to maintain the high degree of obedience skills with which he "graduated." I literally entrust my safety to him every time I use him to transfer.

**PAWS** FOR A **CAUSE**

*PHW  
Attn #4  
892  
3-13-9*



Providing trained dogs to aid the physically challenged toward greater independence.

P.O. Box 966  
St. Louis, MO 63044  
(314) 487-2004  
(314) 739-3317

Alex retrieves objects I drop. Keys, coins, pens, shoes, anything from a dime to a briefcase. He will pick up the cordless telephone, a gallon jug of laundry detergent, etc.

He pulls my wheelchair over long distances and up steep inclines.

He loads the wheelchair into my two-door car. This constitutes a major energy saving for me.

He opens and holds mall-type doors.

He stands and braces while I transfer from my chair onto another surface. This stand-and-brace maneuver is invaluable such times as I fall from my chair or other surface. It is also invaluable when I must make use of inaccessible restroom facilities--Alex turns an impossible situation into a possible one. Not only that, but he does it in such a way that neither of us gets hurt; I can't always say that of impromptu human assistance.

Alex is a living tool for independence. He cannot be turned off or placed on a shelf. We are a team. We function as a team. And the bottom line is without him I cannot function productively.

Some 30 states have addressed the need to revise laws giving full public access to support dogs. I urge the passage of Senate Bill #36.

*Attn #4  
P.H. #1  
Pg 3.  
3-13-9*

**PAWS** FOR A **CAUSE**

Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Winston Barton - Secretary

Statement Regarding: Senate Bill No. 36

Title: An Act relating to persons with physical disabilities; concerning the use of support dogs; amending K.S.A. 39-1103 and repealing the existing section.

Purpose: To affirm that policy of the State, "...to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped and persons who are otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State and to engage in remunerative employment," (K.S.A. 39-1101) is applicable to persons with a physical disability who use support dogs.

Background: Due to the exceptional success of using guide dogs to assist persons who have impaired sight, the use of service dogs in other roles has developed. Service dogs are carefully selected and trained before they are certified by specialized programs. The certified service dog is matched with the person who has a disability, and both are trained by the specialized program to operate as a team. The support dog for persons with physical disabilities is a recent development. Presently, State statute (K.S.A. 39-1102) only specifies that persons who are totally or partially blind shall have the right to be accompanied by a guide dog to places of public accomodation. Consequently, individuals with physical disabilities who use support dogs may be -- and have been -- denied entry to places of public accomodation such as hotels, restaurants, theaters, grocery stores, etc.

Effect of Passage: Service dogs, including the support dog, serve as a tool for living independently -- to assist persons with disabilities to function more independently in their home and community. Persons who can function more independently in their home and community are less reliant on public transfer payments to maintain their livelihood. The use of service dogs also enhances the quality of life for persons with disabilities. For example, the support dog allows a person who is in a wheel chair to have help in picking up a coin or a key which was dropped on the floor, without being dependent upon another individual for that assistance.

Recommendation: The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services recommends adoption of Senate Bill No. 36.

For more information contact:  
Commissioner Gabriel R. Faimon  
Rehabilitation Services  
296-3911

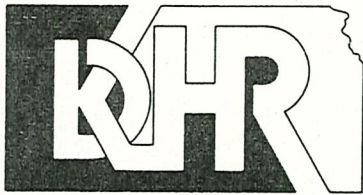
March 13, 1989

*PAW  
Attn #5  
3-13-9*

*PAW  
Attn #5  
3-13-9*

KANSAS

# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED

1430 S.W. Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1877  
913-296-1722 (Voice) • 913-296-5044 (TDD) • 561-1722 (KANS-A-N)

Mike Hayden, Governor

Dennis R. Taylor, Secretary

March 13, 1989

To: Members of the House Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Mike Oxford  
Legislative liaison

Subject: Senate Bill # 36 (Support Dogs)

Our committee supports Senate Bill 36. It reaffirms the intent of K.S.A. 39-1101 to encourage people with disabilities to participate fully in the economic and social life of the state. People with disabilities have the same right as anyone else to enjoy full and free use of sidewalks, public buildings and facilities including hotels, restaurants, stores and so on.

Furthermore, people who are blind or visually impaired are allowed to make use of guide dogs and people who are deaf or hearing impaired are allowed to avail themselves of hearing assistance dogs. This bill will make the law consistent for all people with different disabilities.

There are not a large number of people from any disability group who use dogs for assistance. The dogs are few in number, highly trained and, therefore, quite expensive. On a large scale this bill will have a small impact. On an individual scale, however, SB 36 will have a very significant impact for those whose personal needs make the use of such animals necessary.

Thank you for you time.

ws:c:sb36d

*PHW  
attm # 6  
3-13-9*

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Forbes Field  
Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001  
Phone (913) 296-1500

Mike Hayden, *Governor*

Stanley C. Grant, Ph.D., *Secretary*  
Gary K. Hulett, Ph.D., *Under Secretary*

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

BY

THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Senate Bill 102

Background

During the 1988 legislative session, House Bill 2464 was passed which requires dietitians to be licensed by the state in order to practice. The bill before you now is being proposed to make minor administrative revisions to the existing dietitian licensure law in order to facilitate implementation of that law. We are proposing four amendments:

- 1 Under Section 1, the definition of "board" has been deleted since the provision for such a board was struck from the original law prior to its passage.
- 2 Under Section 2, the current language of the law sets July 1, 1989 as the date that the state is to grant licenses to dietitians. Since rules and regulations are not yet in place, this deadline for granting licenses cannot be met. In order to alleviate this problem and maintain uniformity with the "grandfather" clause, the deadline has been moved up to "one year after the date that rules and regulations become effective."
- 3 Proposed language under Section 3 corrects a contradiction in the "grandfather" clause of this act. The "grandfather" clause waives the examination requirement if the applicant meets the educational and experience requirements by July 1, 1989. However, the experience requirement is defined as "900 hours of experience under the supervision of a licensed dietitian under this act." No supervised experience would qualify because no dietitian will have been licensed prior to or on July 1, 1989. To correct this situation, we have suggested that the experience be approved by the Secretary of Health and Environment and defined in the rules and regulations.

PH & W  
Attn #7  
3-13-9

4 Under Section 4, the law allows the Secretary to revoke a license if the dietitian has been found guilty of a felony. The proposed amendment allows for revocation of a license due to a misdemeanor as well as a felony.

Recommendation

The department hopes you will look favorably on the passage of Senate Bill 102. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Presented by: Cathy Rooney, Director of  
Health Occupations Credentialing  
Bureau of Adult and Child Care  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
March 13, 1989

PHW  
attn #7  
39.2  
3-13-89

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001  
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Mike Hayden, Governor

Stanley C. Grant, Ph.D., Secretary  
Gary K. Hulett, Ph.D., Under Secretary

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO  
HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

BY  
THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Senate Bill 103

Passage of S.B. 103 would result in amendments of the Kansas Laws directed at the manufacture and resale of bedding. The KDHE recommends substituting the terminology of "cleaned" and "sanitized" for "sterilized" and "disinfected." Staff of the KDHE considers the requirements of cleaned and sanitized to effectively eliminate any public health hazards associated with the resales of bedding. The KDHE supports passage of Senate Bill 103.

Presented by

Jim Pyles  
Bureau of Food, Drug and Lodging  
February 13, 1989

*P. H. W.*  
*Attm # 8*  
*3-13-89*

# State of Kansas

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## Board of Healing Arts

TO: House Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
FROM: Richard G. Gannon, Executive Director  
DATE: March 13, 1989  
RE: Testimony on Senate Bill No. 198

The registration of Respiratory Therapists started in 1986 as mandated by the Legislature.

In order for an applicant to become registered in Kansas, they must first pass an examination approved by the Board. Normally this examination is the Certification for Entry Level Respiratory Practitioners given by the NBRC (National Board Respiratory Care) three (3) times a year. The sites of the examination are Wichita and Kansas City. To date, the Board has not administered a test itself. Should this become necessary in the future, the Board would then be required to purchase an examination.

Within the Respiratory Therapy field there is more than one level of credentialing. The cost of the examination depends on the level of entry and ranges from \$75.00 to \$190.00. However, all applicants are simply registered as Respiratory Therapists under Kansas Statutes. Applicants must pass with a score of 75% pursuant to the Board's regulations.

This bill, as amended by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, changes KSA 65-5509 to enable the Board to recoup the actual cost of the examination and any costs associated with its administration. The Board asked for the introduction of SB 198 and favors its passage with the amendments made by the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.

*pkw*  
*attn #9*  
*3-13-89*

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