



01/31/22

Senate Bill 360 / Enacting the Kansas Assistance Animals in Housing Act

Proponent - Written Testimony

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of Kansas Senate Bill 360. This bill will help mitigate potential abuse as well as ensure the benefits of a reasonable accommodation apply to those that really need it. We, as housing providers, strongly support the rights of persons with disabilities to make reasonable accommodation requests so they may have equal opportunity to use and enjoy their home.

As a housing provider, one of the most requested accommodations we receive is to allow assistance animals that would normally be prohibited and/or to waive pet fees and pet rent. The lack of clarity in the current law governing reasonable accommodation requests creates confusion and loopholes that can lead to abuse of the system. For example, you can go online and pay for a service animal certification from a doctor that you've never met, from a different state. Example site below:

https://usserviceanimals.org/certification?utm_content=Google:Search:ECD:EmotionalSupportAnimalRegistration3:emotional%20support%20animal%20registration:102&gclid=Cj0KCQiAxc6PBhCEARIsAH8Hff15kX2aJc4MlbRPbqAywxa2pUVQcPyYiLK3xfVHfrzXAJflia3ibvIaAh IEALw_wcB

This bill gives clarity to housing providers and residents so that the law is clear as intended.

Thank you for your consideration and vote of support of Senate Bill 360.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nickole Nordstrom'.

Nickole Nordstrom

Vice President of Asset Management

Worcester Communities