

Subject: Support for SB535 – Housing Discrimination – Service Dogs and Guide Dogs

From: Meleah Jensen

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To: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

My name is Meleah Jensen, please correct a loophole in the law and permit retired guide dogs to stay with their owner by voting in favor of SB535.

Unfortunately, I was only able to work with my dog Calvin for 3.5 years. Calvin was a very good dog, until he experienced some trauma on an MTA bus. He refused to get on the bus after this experience. Since I do not drive, taking the bus was my only option. The vet gave me anxiety pills for him, but they only made him lethargic, so I had to retire him.

The apartment complex where I live has a no pets policy. Finding another home for my guide dog was a problem and having to euthanize him was something that I refused to do. Eventually, I was lucky enough to find a couple to take Calvin by accident. They happened to ask me how I was doing and then offered to take the dog. Most blind people are not that lucky. You cannot count on accidents to solve this problem so please vote in favor of SB535.