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To: Senate Finance Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Finance Committee to give a favorable report to SB0037 Maryland Service Animal Programs - Participant Disqualification – Revisions. This bill permits the nonprofit training entity to disqualify a program participant from continuing in the program if they present a danger to the program participant's mental or physical well-being; presents a direct threat to others; will damage the animal, or does not meet the training requirement of the nonprofit training entity. It is common sense that in today's society, it is necessary to have these provisions so that there are no misunderstandings later.

The bill could benefit from the inclusion of an appeal procedure for the program participant. The committee can stipulate that regulations for an appeal must be drafted. The customer should have the right to appeal within reason.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0037. For questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.