

Expand service dog training opportunities

Date: April 4, 2025

To: Senate Judiciary and Public Safety
Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Vice Chair
Senator Warren Limmer, Ranking Minority Member

From: Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing

Support housing provisions for service dog trainers – HF688 (SF1317)

The Commission urges you to support HF688 (SF1317), which would allow eligible service dog trainers to carry out training in their own homes without being required to pay extra compensation (while remaining liable for any damage to the premises) to landlords or homeowner associations.

Service or assistant dog training organizations rely heavily on volunteers; exposure to home environments is essential to this training. For example, many deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing Minnesotans benefit from hearing assistance dogs, and these dogs need to be comfortable in a home environment that may include sounds from doorbells, door knocks, baby cry monitors, smoke or carbon monoxide alarms, appliances, etc.

Current landlord and homeowner association prohibitions on dogs limit the pool of potential volunteers for training service dogs. We support extending service dog housing accommodations to trainers while they train their canine clients, which will, in turn, allow assistance dog training organizations to serve more people with disabilities.

We thank Senator Westlin for bringing this bill, and we urge you to join her in voting yes on HF688 (SF1317).

Signed,



Alicia Lane, Government Relations Director