

From: Amy Sharer [mailto:asharer@frontier.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 1:19 AM

To: TomBarrett@house.mi.gov; The Office of Senator O'Brien; kgawronski@house.mi.gov; Leta Howard

Subject: Comments concerning Michigan's proposed HB 4521, HB 4527, SB 298, and SB 299

Dear Representatives Barrett, O'Brien, Gawronski, and Howard;

Re: Proposed HB 4521, HB 4527, SB 298, and SB 299 (Michigan)

My name is Amy Sharer and I am a resident of Oregon. I have multiple disabilities and use a service dog to assist me in living as independent lifestyle as I can. I was recently made aware of Michigan's proposed HB 4521, HB 4527, SB 298, and SB 299, and would like to extend my support of the [Psychiatric Service Dog Partners \(PSDP\) letter](#) concerning necessary adjustments for the above-mentioned pieces of legislation.

By utilizing congruent definitions of person with a disability, such as those definitions that are already in the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and congruent definitions pertaining to a service dog handler's freedom to not be continually asked for identification (which may not exist or may not be consistent), or require the service dog to utilize a particular piece of equipment, you rely on well-researched definitions from the United States Department of Justice. You also allow for more freedom of movement for tourists and potential tourists, who feel welcomed to enjoy Michigan due to supportive disability-related laws and protection for service animal teams.

I would also like to applaud you for considering the inclusion of service dogs in training in Michigan bills; the ability for service dogs in training to visit all the places that they would visit as service dogs provides a well-rounded training experience for them and makes them more able to assist their handlers who have a disability. From personal experience, the ability to participate in service dog training from a very early age of the dog has allowed my dog to gain additional skills and further assist me with management of my medical condition (including alerting before my medical condition occurs).

Returning to the subject of HB 4521, HB 4527, SB 298, and SB 299, I would also like to provide a personal perspective. Michigan state laws affect me if I were to visit friends, have business meetings, or partake in vacation and/or recreational activities there (i.e. be a tourist of your state and contribute to your state's economy with my money). While Federal Laws such as (but not limited to) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978 would provide me the civil right to enjoy Michigan as a person with a disability and who happens to use a service animal, the support of Michigan state laws in facilitating my tourism with the least amount of hassles related to the simple fact that I happen to have multiple disabilities and utilize a service dog as one of my tools to live a more independent life.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the comments of Psychiatric Service Dog Partners (PSDP) and my own.

Warmly,
Amy Sharer
Oregon

asharer@frontier.com