

February 18, 2016

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real-estate Committee,

I urge you to oppose the language of sb35, which includes Guide Dogs in the definition of assistance and therapy dogs.

Thread, (Assistance Dogs International) uses the medical model while The IGF, (International Guide Dog Federation) supports an autonomous model for training guide dogs to work with blind people as they navigate through their environment independently and safely. Funding for Guide Dog Schools is acquired through the Philanthropic model. Furthermore, Guide Dog Handlers are responsible for the care of their Guide Dogs. Guide Dog handlers in the State of Connecticut reject the Health Insurance along with the present and future attached strings which are and may continue to occur through such proposed legislation.

I am currently working with my fifth Seeing Eye Dog from the Seeing Eye. I am responsible for the care of my Guide Dog. As President of The Greater Hartford NFB Chapter, of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, I encourage you to oppose SB35.

Barbara Blejewski  
4 Tabshey Court  
Wethersfield, Ct 06109  
Telephone: 860 721-8601

Email: [Barbara.blejewski@cox.net](mailto:Barbara.blejewski@cox.net)