



January 31, 2022

Senate Bill 360 / Enacting the Kansas assistance animals in housing act.

Proponent

Oral in-Person & Written Testimony

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Curry Real Estate Services, Senior Vice President

Thank you for taking the time to consider Senate Bill 360 today. I am a Senior Vice President at Curry Real Estate Services and in charge of our multifamily portfolio. I am also a current Board Member of the Apartment Association of Kansas City and a Past President of Kansas City Chapter 15 of the IREM (Institute of Real Estate Management). I have been working in the apartment industry for over 25 years and I am in full support of this bill.

Senate Bill 360 is a bill that will outline protocols and responsibilities as it relates to animal assistance in housing in the state of Kansas. Kansas code currently only relates to public accommodation without mention of housing and this bill will align the requests for reasonable accommodation from renters under the Fair Housing Act.

As a housing provider and company who pursues excellence for all our properties and all our residents, we have seen a proliferation of requests for emotional support animals as a way to circumvent any restrictions, pet policies, or deposits/fees that our properties have. For instance, we have been having potential renters ask about our pet policies and when they find out what that entails, they instead come back with requests for an emotional support animal and flimsy documentation that makes our job difficult to interpret without the potential for accusations under the Fair Housing Act. These abuses of the system make it unfair to property owners and managers and actually harms those who truly need an emotional support animal.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 360 and ask for your vote to approve and move out of this committee.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Long, CPM®
Senior Vice President