

House Judiciary & Public Safety Committee

Hon. Chair Becker-Finn

Jack Fischer
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Good afternoon Committee Members and thank you for taking the time to consider House File 4143, to clarify existing protections for renters with disabilities.

I have been diagnosed with a disability since 2020, and it was at that time my licensed healthcare provider recommended a support animal as part of my on-going treatment plan.

When I entered into my first lease after college, I spent an enormous amount of time reviewing and understanding the contract I was entering into. I took pride in spending time doing due diligence to understand my commitment. My landlord required I pay a pet deposit, as well as on-going pet rent— as a new renter, and someone unfamiliar with housing and accommodation law, I paid the full deposit and dutifully paid pet rent for 11 months before understanding that State Law prohibited these types of fees.

I approached my landlord, who is one of the largest rental property services in the Twin Cities Metro during my lease renewal. I inquired with them about getting a rent credit for my deposit, and directed them to the governing statutes. My landlord rejected my request for any refunds, ignored my various emails and phone calls, and actively held up renegotiating my lease— from my perspective, because of this dispute.

I worked with various legal representation, many of whom assured me I was already protected under current statute. I filed a petition in Conciliation Court. After a long stressful process, the Court Referee denied my petition.

I am grateful to see this legislation being considered. I lost a little under \$1000 from this whole ordeal, which is a lot for renters like me. Please vote yes on HF4143, well educated renters are good renters.

Sincerely,

Jack Fischer
Saint Paul Renter