

**From:** [T. Blosser](#)  
**To:** [DeJong Annola](#)  
**Subject:** SB610 Testimony in SUPPORT of this bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 9:44:04 PM

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## **To Whom it May Concern:**

**Unfortunately, I am somewhat constrained by limited transportation so therefore, I will not be able to attend this hearing but I wanted to convey to all of you the importance in passing SB610.**

**My name is Terry Blosser and I reside at 1558 SW Wright Pl., Troutdale, OR 97060. I am on my first guide dog whose name is Bryson, a 6-year old Yellow Labrador Retriever from Guide Dogs for the Blind. I have, what is called, Type 2 Usher's Syndrome. I am legally blind and severely hearing impaired. I am currently a senior at Portland State University and will be graduating in June of this year with a Bachelors in History.**

**Throughout my day to day travels with my guide dog Bryson, I have had many unfortunate opportunities to witness what I believe to be serious issues relating to "service dogs." I cannot count the number of times that Bryson has been the object of an aggressive dog coming onto or getting off of a train. I am certain that these individuals are attempting to bring their "pets" under the guise of a "service animal" so that they can just travel without any concern or fear that they may be in violation of any law. I have personally experienced discrimination from restauranteurs on several occasions. One complained that too many people came into his establishment "feigning" as he calls**

**it, the service dog label and their dogs were out of control and he was afraid to say anything for fear of being sued. So when a legitimate guide dog team like Bryson and I show up, we were treated as second class citizens and relegated to the “back of the bus” in this case, to the back or side of the restaurant, out of people’s way. I am aware that is a direct violation of Federal ADA laws and I have addressed it with them however, it goes to show just how serious of a problem it is when people are faking the service animal label.**

**Federal ADA laws, as it exists today, only allows for two questions to be asked about a service animal. First is: is this a service animal? And two: what tasks does it perform for you (outside of regular obedience training, of course). Many people will tell you that their “comfort” animals fall under this guideline because their “mental health” therapist says it is OK.**

**Herein lies many of the problems. The majority of these dogs are not trained in animal socialization, obedience, or any tasks outside of its normal activities. When we have dogs who do perform tasks for the blind, the deaf, people with epilepsy, and other severe health issues whom have service dogs with COUNTLESS hours of training, it is hard for those of us to express our disappointment when we do not have laws supporting our position. My guide dog, for example, has been in training from the day that they are turned over to puppy raisers. They get advanced obedience training and once**

**they reach the age of 12 to 16 months and they've matured in their obedience training, they are then turned over to Guide Dogs for the Blind to begin advanced training. They are in that facet of training for at least four months. Again, countless hours and thousands of dollars are involved in training many of the legitimate service dogs.**

**I apologize if I am going off on a tangent but the bottom line is this: we need a law with teeth that will provide some relief to those who do have a legitimately trained service dog. Oftentimes, people liberally take advantage of the "service animal" label to suit themselves only. To me, I feel it is morally wrong that one would relegate themselves to a level in which they would misrepresent themselves solely for the purpose of being able to take a pet everywhere they go. I wish there was a way for one to experience just for one day, the life I lead, the challenges I face on a daily basis, and the rewards of knowing that my guide dog Bryson is there to make sure I am safe and am able to get to where we need to go.**

**I URGE you to PLEASE consider passage of SB610. It has been a LONG time coming.**

**Respectfully,  
Terry Blosser and Bryson, my most trusted Guide dog  
Troutdale, OR**