



Dear Counsel Members,

I am Candy Muscari-Erdos. I have a BS in Criminal Justice from Rollins College in FL. I have been an Animal Welfare officer with Douglas County. I have been a vet tech at a vet clinic in Parker and Monument, CO. I was trained by Jennifer Arnold, Kent Bruner, and Victoria Stillwell of Canine Assistants in Atlanta, GA. My training consisted of how to train service dogs, behavior of dogs, new methods of teaching dogs, medical training/education for dogs, and many other things in the two Teach the Teacher Seminars. I have assisted Canine Assistants with a service dog that they placed here in Colorado. I am an approved AKC (American Kennel Club) Evaluator for many of their programs including their new AKC Temperament Test, ATT, .

Currently I am the CEO of Mountain High Service Dogs Inc.

Mountain High Service Dogs Inc. (MHSD) is a 501c3 Non-profit and we train dogs to be Service Dogs for persons with disabilities. MHSD not only trains service dogs, we also educate people about their dogs and the laws pertaining to their dogs. MHSD had aided large corporations in educating them about service dogs.

MHSD has provided Peer Support Dogs to South Metro Fire Department, who has two dogs presently and has requested a third dog, and last year provided a Peer Support dog to the Douglas County Sheriff Office, who also works for Dan Bright. MHSD is getting call from all around the US requesting information on how to start their own peer support programs, funding for to get a dog, and of course dogs themselves.

MHSD has traveled to Switzerland to speak to other service dog organizations about what other services dogs can perform more that what is presently recognized there. MHSD has placed working service dogs all around the world. We have dogs in Switzerland, Ireland, Thailand, Canada, New Zealand, and many other locations around the world. We have been a contributor and assisted Mrs. Lindsgraf with the CO Veteran Program for PTSD Service Dogs

MHSD has obtained dogs from private breeders, individuals that are looking to re-home a dog that they can no longer care for, Humane Societies, and we have even gotten dogs from pet stores. MHSD however does not get dogs from CO rescue organizations.

MHSD is licensed with the State of Colorado and we adhere to all rules and regulations as set forth with PAFCA.

On November 1, 2017 MHSD acquired another service dog organization by the name of Noelle's Dogs Four Hope. MHSD took on 35 dogs, 35 foster families, 35 NDFH contracts of clients to receive the dogs. On the Morning of November 1, 2017 at 8 AM I had two PAFCA Inspectors show up at my front door requesting access to the files of NDFH. I did not have the

files, MHSD was found to be in violation of the PAFCA Rules. MHSD had its first failed inspection. That was not the only one. We failed the follow up inspection. We only had one more inspection that we could fail before our license was also revoked. MHSD located an attorney to help get the Dept. of Agriculture PAFCA inspector off our back so that we could straighten out the mess caused by NDFH. The attorney cost us 16,000.00 dollars! The Veterinarian bills for 35 dogs was about \$5,000.00 dollars, and every one was in to see the vet within 30 days. We paid and are still paying for all the routine vet care, spays/neuters, all medications needed to get the dogs healthy again.

I am here today to be a representative of the service dog training industry and discuss the impact this HB-20-1084.

I have to say that MHSD is opposed to this bill.

Here are our reasons why:

- * We already have rules and regulations in place with PAFCA
- * PAFCA updates and changes these rules as needed when they have their Sundown Reviews.
- * PAFCA Agents have proven statistically that they are doing their jobs, and enforcing the rules/regulations that are currently in place. The latest report in the Denver Post Dec 2019 was regarding PetCo stores in CO with 80 Violations in 12 stores.
- *Some of the information listed in HB20-1084 is misleading, inaccurate, and emotional statements.
- * USDA CDC reports: 2016-2018 there were only 113 reported cases of puppies of pet stores to human transmission of the multi drug resistant campylobacter. In 17 states, CO is not one of them.
- * USDA CDC reports: 2019 only 30 reported cases in 13 states, Colorado is not one of them.
- * The USDA CDC located only one pet store that was the cases of the 2016-2019 Campylobacter and that was PetLand. They are not even located in CO.
- * Colorado Department of Health and Environment does not list Campylobacter as Disease or Condition within the state of CO.
- * Where there is no law in CO the Federal USDA Animal Welfare Act will fill-in the gap. This Federal Law already addresses the treatment of animals, exhibition of dogs and cats, transportation, and breeders.

- * Presently there is no official guideline for genetic of breed health regulations. Most veterinarians use OFA is a standard for genetics. OFA mission statement is; "To improve the health and well being of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease." this also includes cats.
- * The cost of these tests vary by breed: for example a German Shepherd Dog can cost between 600-700 dollars, and this is just for one.
- * They are saying we have a problem with badly breed dogs and cats sold by breeders, mill breeders, and in pet stores. But yet in the HB_20-1084:
 - * They are not outlining any solutions to the issues/problems
 - * This HB does not state what genetic testing should performed
 - * This HB is not proposing how to locate unlicensed mill breeders, if there are even existing mills in CO.
 - * If Campylobacter is the only transmittable disease that is an epidemic, why is it that Colorado had not had a reported case.