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Colorado Restores Disability Housing Protections After Trump Administration Abandons Guidance

New Law Protects Coloradans Who Rely on Assistance Animals

DENVER, CO — Colorado has stepped in to protect people with disabilities after the Trump administration withdrew federal guidance that helped ensure equal access to housing. Gov. Jared Polis signed [House Bill 26-1045](#) into law on May 28, restoring clarity for tenants, landlords, and housing providers regarding assistance animals, including emotional support animals.

The new bipartisan law, which Disability Law Colorado helped develop, restores housing protections that became uncertain after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development removed key guidance on assistance animals from its website in 2025. HUD formally withdrew the guidance on May 22, 2026, and directed staff to stop working on cases involving emotional support animals.

Disability Law Colorado warned that the move would create confusion for tenants and housing providers and lead to more housing disputes. By signing HB 1045 less than a week later, Colorado ensured that these protections remain clear under state law.

Advocates say the law will help prevent people with disabilities from being forced to choose between their homes and their assistance animals, reduce strain on the Colorado Civil Rights Division and courts, and avoid unnecessary animal surrenders.

"For many people with disabilities, an assistance animal is not a luxury—it's a necessity," said **Morgan Hecht Dominguez**, Disability Rights Attorney at Disability Law Colorado. "This law helps ensure that Coloradans won't be forced to choose between keeping the support they need and keeping a roof over their heads."

"Federal guidance helped tenants and housing providers resolve issues before they escalated into litigation," said **Kelly McCullough**, Co-Legal Director at Disability Law Colorado. "When the federal government withdrew this guidance, it left tenants and housing providers without a clear roadmap. Colorado stepped in to provide one."

To schedule an interview with Morgan Hecht Dominguez or Kelly McCullough, or Colorado families affected by the legislation, contact DLC Communications Manager **Felix Ortiz** at 720-202-9871 or fortiz@disabilitylawco.org.

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Disability Law Colorado is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for people with disabilities to thrive. For more information, visit disabilitylawco.org.