

Dear Representative DelBene,

As winter approaches, we urge you to take swift action to advance H.R. 4921, the Providing for Unhoused People and Pets (PUPP) Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation addresses a critical barrier to shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness: the inability to stay with their pets.

For many unhoused individuals, pets are not optional—they are family. They provide emotional support, security, and companionship during the most difficult times. Yet, too often, people are forced to choose between a warm bed and keeping their beloved companion. This heartbreaking choice leaves many outside in dangerous conditions, especially during severe winter weather.

Washington State has already recognized this reality. Earlier this year, the Legislature passed HB 1201, requiring local emergency management plans to identify shelters that allow people and pets to remain together. This law reflects our shared understanding that families come in many forms—and that pets are integral members of those families.

H.R. 4921 builds on this principle at the federal level by creating a grant program to help shelters retrofit facilities, cover pet-related costs, and train staff in basic animal care. It ensures that supportive services for people and veterinary care for pets are available, so that no one must choose between safety and family.

We believe this is a matter of compassion, public health, and common sense. As organizations committed to the well-being of Washington residents, we strongly urge you to support and advocate for the swift passage of H.R. 4921 in the House.

Together, we can ensure that people and pets stay safe and together during times of crisis. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the dignity and safety of all Washingtonians.

Sincerely,

