



**LONG ISLAND DOG OWNERS GROUP (LI-DOG)
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**Memorandum of Support for
S4327A Hannon/A5956C Rosenthal
Allows Dogs in Restaurant Outdoor Dining Areas**

We represent thousands of families on Long Island who own dogs. These families cherish their canine companions and regularly seek ways to integrate them into their social and recreational activities both for their own pleasure and well-being and that of their dogs.

Many restaurants on Long Island with outdoor dining areas currently allow people to bring their well-behaved dogs to these outdoor areas. However, by seeking to accommodate the wishes of their customers, restaurant owners unwittingly risk running into problems with their license. This is arbitrary and unnecessary. Dining establishments in Europe have accommodated dog owners and their dogs for years without raising public health issues. More than a year ago, California passed legislation, upon which NYS's legislation is modeled, that has worked extremely well. The legislation before you balances the need to protect public health by creating basic hygiene standards, while allowing people to enjoy eating outside accompanied by their canine companions. This legislation is good for New York business and for the hundreds of thousands of New York families who own dogs.

***Ginny Munger Kahn, President
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