



Moving Forward • Advocating for Change

Testimony in Support SB 44

January 16, 2020

Assigned to Judicial Proceedings

A Bill entitled Public Buildings - Changing Facilities

Sponsored by Senator Lam

Written by Ken Capone

Good afternoon my name is Ken Capone. I am the director of People On the Go of Maryland which is Maryland's statewide self-advocacy organization. We are here to testify in support of SB 44. We see this legislation as an important step forward for people with disabilities who needs personal hygiene supports to have greater community access, to be able to participate in employment easier and to have greater access to social activities. I have friends that can't go out for longer than 2 or 3 hours because they need a changing facility to be able to change and feel comfortable. People with disabilities should be able to go out in the community and enjoy whatever they enjoy doing without having to worry about if they are going to find somewhere that will suit their needs to be able to get cleaned.

This is the perfect time for this kind of legislation since Maryland is an employment first state and at the federal level there is The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

The fact is that this legislation will also be a great benefit to the community as a whole because people are living longer and as a result of that they may need changing facilities.

People with disabilities have so many barriers to overcome in life, it seems like we can remedy this one fairly easy by having changing facilities in bathrooms.

People On the Go supports SB 44.

Thank you

