



HB10- Public Buildings: Changing Facilities
Health and Government Operations Committee
January 29, 2020
Position: Support with Amendments

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and we are here to urge your support for HB10 with sponsor amendments.

People with developmental disabilities by and large want the opportunity to leave their homes and participate in their communities. Many work, go out with friends and family, attend events, shop, and worship among an array of community activities. When bathrooms equipped with changing stations, capable of supporting the weight of both a child and an adult, are unavailable, individuals who require personal hygiene assistance are often changed in the backs of cars, tailgates of vans or trucks, on the grass or in parking lots (while family members hold up blankets for privacy barriers), on the laps of their caregivers while sitting on a toilet and frequently on the floor of a restroom.

According to statistics provided by the Dignified Changes advocacy group, more than 17 million individuals experience urinary incontinence and this number is expanding as our population ages and the percentage of people with disabilities increases.

HB10 is not just a bill about creating dignified, private, and hygienic places for personal hygiene and changing. It is about honoring the humanness of our fellow community member and recognizing how challenging it is to not have access to a bathroom throughout the day and the inappropriate “alternatives” many individuals with disabilities and their families are forced to employ.

People with developmental disabilities, older adults, veterans with paralysis or other disabilities, and those with complex medical conditions all deserve privacy and human dignity. We all deserve a dignified change in our laws to require adult changing places in our public buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

Ande Kolp
Executive Director