

House Health Government Operations Committee
January 29, 2020
HB10: Support

Good afternoon,

My name is Amanda Lay. I am pleased to be here as a member of the MD DD Council. I was born with Cerebral Palsy. Due to my physical disability, I require personal hygiene support, including adult pads to manage my personal needs in the most dignified way because I am unable to use the restroom without the assistance of others.

My disability does not stop me from participating in activities in my community. I spend my days working, hanging out with friends, and enjoying the same benefits of the community as you do. Yet, it becomes a challenge when there are not changing facilities that can accommodate my needs.

Being placed on the floor in order to have my personal hygiene needs cared for is very hard to do and is not an option. Since I use a power wheelchair, public restroom stalls are not large enough to accommodate my wheelchair.

Many people with disabilities are in a similar situation due to the nature of their disability. In order for all of us to meaningfully engage in all activities, we need access to changing facilities that make it possible for our personal support needs to be met. I believe that making adult changing tables available in State buildings that are renovated or new is a good start to meeting personal hygiene needs in a gracious, dignified, way.

Thank you so much for your time and attention.