

January 16, 2020

SB 44: Public Buildings – Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers

SUPPORT

My family supports Senate Bill 44 (HB10) which addresses the need for designated adult diaper changing facilities in public buildings built or renovated after October 1, 2020.

This issue is very important to my family because we have a 15 year old daughter named Nadiya who desperately needs this accommodation. Nadiya has a rare genetic disease that causes significant multiple disabilities. She requires the use of a wheelchair and wears diapers. She is too large at 15 years old to use a standard baby changing table and is too heavy to lift onto a high surface.

Beyond her disability Nadiya is a happy child who loves music, Disney, dogs, classic rock, especially Fleetwood Mac and Steely Dan, and she loves mermaids. She also enjoys being in a crowd and going on adventures to new places. Nadiya inspires hope in those she meets. She wants to explore the world outside her school, home, and medical facilities but it is very difficult for her to access the community when there is no appropriate place to change her diaper. I struggle to manage Nadiya's needs in public and have missed opportunities that would have been beneficial for her because I had no way of changing her diaper in a location or facility. I will not change her on a filthy bathroom floor as I am sure you understand and I am sure none of you would want that for yourselves or someone you love. Nadiya deserves the same dignity and privacy awarded to typical adults and older children who need to use the restroom. She deserves the dignity of not leaking through her clothes and she deserves privacy. Many adults and older children with disabilities are isolated in their homes unable to access the community because of this lack of accessibility to changing facilities. Nadiya's life experiences are limited when she is unable to go out in the community.

This bill addresses an accessibility problem and a quality of life problem that has been a barrier for way too long. So as you are deciding if you will support this bill remember that at any time any one of you could be faced with having to navigate an inaccessible world with someone you love who has a significant disability; none of us is immune. The community should be for everyone not just those who can use a standard toilet. You have the power to restore some dignity to the disabled community and give them the gift of equality and access. Please vote for Senate Bill 0044 (House Bill 006) and be part of the movement that pioneers change for people with disabilities. Give Nadiya access so that she can experience life and continue to inspire hope in others.

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Parent and Nadiya's Voice

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