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Senate Judicial Proceedings

Senate Bill 44: Public Buildings: Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers

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Position: Support

As the mother of a 17 year old child who has significant physical disabilities, I am in support of Senate Bill 44, which would require a suitable diaper changing facility for an adult in need and would require the Department of General Services to maintain a list on its website of all locations in Maryland that have an accessible changing facility.

As people with physical, neurological and intellectual/developmental disabilities age, many are in need of continuous use of diapers. In order to be out in the community and included in routine activities with caregivers, an adult changing table is a convenient and safe way for caretakers to assist individuals who may be unable to fully care for themselves. Privacy and dignity are of utmost importance as caregivers provide personal hygiene support for adult loved ones. To date, there are no options in the mall or public spaces in Maryland where I can safely and appropriately provide personal hygiene support to my daughter.

Currently, I am unable to go anywhere in the community for greater than four hours at a time. This limits my family's ability to go places that involve extended periods away from home.

Individuals with disabilities, especially those in supported employment and job coaching activities, may only be able to work in businesses that equip their facilities with adult changing tables or in sites that have facilities near their place of work.

People over 36 pounds cannot be accommodated on diaper changing tables in public places. Therefore, people with diaper changing needs have minimal options for this activity while out in the community. This situation places extraordinary stress on caregivers and persons in need. Senate Bill 44 would address this problem by creating safe and sanitary options for support in diapering people with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities in Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted-

Lori E Scott