



Central Chesapeake Region

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January 14, 2021

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Lowe House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass & Health and Government Operations Committee Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region in support of HB321 – Public Buildings – Changing Facilities – Requirements.

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves over 2,500 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Arc Central Chesapeake Region's mission is to promote respect, create opportunities, facilitate services and advocate for equal rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HB321 would require that a public building constructed after the specified date have at least one public restroom with a changing facility suitable for providing personal care for all children and adults. This would also apply to an existing public building that is built or substantially renovated on or after the specified date. This legislation will allow equal access for all people regardless of their physical abilities.

We believe that this legislation is essential for people with disabilities to have equal access to facilities and the proper accommodations within a public space to use a restroom. By requiring these changing facilities in public buildings, this will allow people with disabilities to have the access to an accessible restroom with a changing table. This will specifically improve the ability for adults with physical disabilities to engage in their communities and create the necessary conditions for full inclusion in public spaces. This legislation will directly impact over 250 people The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves.

In the 2020 legislative session, the House passed HB10 as amended and it was held in the Senate due to the early adjournment. We ask for your support again this session by voting in favor of HB321 and voting in favor of equal access for people with disabilities across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

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