



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland



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Columbia, MD 21046

SB 61: Public Buildings- Changing Facilities - Requirements **Position: Support** **January 28, 2021** **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**



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Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with developmental disabilities. As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 61.



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People with developmental disabilities want and need the opportunity to meaningfully participate in their communities whether to work, go out with friends and family, attend events, shop, and worship, among other things. Some people with disabilities, of all ages, require help with personal care. Yet, very few changing facilities suitable for a child under the age of 4 years and for providing personal care for an adult exist. As a result, families of children and adults with disabilities who require personal care and support are forced to significantly limit outings or stay home; or if they do go out, personal care needs are taken care of in less than ideal situations – in the back of cars, on the grass or in parking lots, and frequently on the floor of a restroom.



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

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Access to changing facilities in new or renovated state buildings is a critical step to decreasing barriers to full community inclusion, and ensuring that privacy and dignity is afforded to more Marylanders. In addition, maintaining the availability and location of appropriate changing facilities on the 2-1-1 Maryland website is an essential component so more people with disabilities and families can plan and enjoy each outing.



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These relatively small steps will improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities, other people with personal care needs, and families; therefore, the DD Coalition strongly supports HB 61.

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