



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

January 14, 2021

**HB 321
Public Buildings - Changing Facilities – Requirements**

House Health and Government Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

House Bill 321 addresses an important issue – requiring that a changing facility be installed in public restrooms in public buildings allowing parents to change their kids’ diapers and provide personal care to adults. The bill also ensures a list of changing facilities is made available via Maryland 2-1-1.

The Conference works to support efforts that are life-affirming. Providing a diaper-changing facility in public buildings enables all parents to take part in childcare and supports healthy growth options for busy families. No mom or dad should ever have to worry about finding a safe, sanitary place to change their baby or toddler -- least of all in a state or public building that's paid for by taxpayers. Equal access to changing facilities in Maryland’s public buildings in both men's and women's bathrooms is essential to protecting the health and safety of children and encouraging a family-friendly environment.

Furthermore, ensuring a space to provide personal care to adults protects the privacy and safety of persons with disabilities and the elderly, and is responsive to the needs of Maryland’s families.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report for **HB 321**. Thank you for your consideration.