Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Universal Changing Spaces







What:

The proposed legislation for Public Buildings and Changing Facility requirements would add a provision that a changing facility suitable for changing the diaper of a child **AND** *for providing personal care for an adult* be installed in restrooms in public buildings.

Changing facilities that provide safe, clean accommodations for all ages no matter height, weight, or abilities are known as **universal changing spaces**. Universal tables are height adjustable, hold up to 400lbs, and measure at least 70 in x 30 in.

Why Universal Changing Spaces?

- Baby changing tables are too small for older children, teens, or adults to use
- Many people need assistance with self-care, like toileting and diaper changing away from home
- Individuals are being changed in unhygienic, uncomfortable, undignified, and unsafe places such as on bathroom floors
- Lack of proper universal changing spaces affects:
 - Aging individuals
 - o Individuals with disabilities and/or medical conditions
 - Their family members, caregivers, friends who cannot spend time in the community with their loved ones

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Why are Universal Changing Spaces important?

<u>Everyone in our community benefits</u> from having individuals with disabilities present in our public spaces and community events. People with disabilities, and other persons utilizing universal changing spaces, have so much to offer from skills, to personalities, that enrich the lives of those around them. Individuals are left out of society because of a lack of inclusive restroom facilities.

With Universal Changing Spaces:

- You will welcome everyone to public spaces
- No more rushing home to address restroom needs.
- No more staying at home in isolation: Universal Changing Spaces promote inclusion.
- You give a place for individuals to change safely, privately, and with dignity

Ask:

Please support the passage of HB ### / SB ### for "Public Buildings and Changing Facility requirements", so that changing facilities suitable for changing the diaper of a child **AND** *for providing personal care for an adult* be installed in restrooms in public buildings.

Support Universal Changing Spaces because everyone deserves dignity!