

Thank you Chairman and committee members for hearing my testimony for Bill SF 0999 now part of the Labor Omnibus bill SF2782 requiring adult/universal size changing tables be added to public restrooms for new public buildings and large scale renovations. This important bill will fill the gap not meeting the needs of thousands of citizens that must wear protective, disposable undergarments.

My name is Tram Nguyen from district 61. I'm 49-years old, a mom, and full-time caregiver to my daughter Sadie. Sadie is 7.5-years old. She is 61 lbs. and over 4-feet tall. She was diagnosed at birth with a chromosomal anomaly which means she is a medically-complex, fragile child. She is wheelchair dependent and will be diapered for life.

There is legislation for baby changing tables and even for airport service animal relief areas, but there is currently no Minnesota legislation for persons over 40 lbs. who need safe and sanitary changing care.

To give you an example of where there are NO universal-size changing tables:

- Government buildings (state IDs & passports)
- Minnesota Visitor Centers and Rest Stop Areas
- Minnesota Parks and Recreational facilities
- Public Libraries & Schools - function as voting venues
- Large sporting/concert venues – Allianz field, Target Field and US Bank Stadium all built without one
- Hospitals and medical clinics – Surprisingly, Mayo currently has none, one is in process. Minnesota is a medical tourism state but our legislation does not reflect support for these visitors.

Places that I've had to change my daughter:

- Floors of an accessible bathroom stall where the privacy walls do not go to the floor and others can see her naked as I change her diaper and clothes. If someone comes in, I talk about loud so that they feel safe and not worried why a child is on the floor

- Back of my van
- On the grass in the park

As senators, you represent citizens with small businesses and large companies. I know you are thinking of the costs associated with this bill. Some tables can cost as low as \$3K for a free-standing table and up to \$10K for an electronic wall-mounted version. My family owned a small restaurant and my mom said if the cost was as low as \$3K she didn't see it as an obstacle to build her restaurant had it been the law for new buildings.

Small businesses (less 30 employees & \$1M or less gross receipts) can claim up to \$5K tax credit under the Disabled Access Credit. All businesses, for retrofits, could get a tax deduction of up to \$15K for removing barriers which these tables would qualify. To further offset the cost, thousands of us would support MORE businesses if they had universal sized changing stations. Covid highlighted what isolation can do to all of us. This obstacle - a clean, safe and private universal bathroom - continues to keep our loved ones and their caregivers in isolation.

Four other states have passed the state law (AZ, CA, NH, and TN). Several other states like MN have bills in front of them (the Mississippi Bill passed out of the Senate).

Bill SF 0999 in the Labor Omnibus Bill SF 2782 will ensure new public buildings and large scale renovation projects house UNIVERSAL sized changing tables for all people who need to be diapered in a safe and hygienic capacity. Please help us remove one of the biggest obstacles for this community.

Sincerely:

Tram Nguyen

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