

March 22, 2023

Dear Madame Chair and State and Local Government and Veterans Committee:

Thank you for your time in considering SF999, which is an extremely important issue to my family and I.

I am the mother of an 11 year old son, Parker, who was born with profound disabilities. He is one of the happiest young men I have ever met. He has two older sisters who are on high school sports teams and he enjoys cheering them on, as well as going on outings to places like the zoos, aquariums, museums, fairgrounds, and other community events. One very large hurdle we have while trying to enjoy our communities is the fact that Parker is incontinent and requires frequent changes. The only time that we have found an adult sized changing table in all of our outings has been while at Gillette Children's Hospital and Clinic facilities.

Parker is nearly as tall as me and is approaching 100 lbs. He has long ago outgrown the baby sized changing tables that are readily available in almost every public restroom. We absolutely refuse to force Parker to lay on a dirty public bathroom floor in order to meet his needs and I think any reasonable person would agree that they would not lay a loved one on a dirty floor, not only because of germs but also in order to preserve their dignity. This means that we have been forced to cut our outings short or attempt to change him in our vehicle which has become nearly impossible with his size.

Our loved ones who have incontinence issues deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect that you and I are. This is why I respectfully ask for your support and passage of SF999. With our aging population and increase in older children and adults who cannot use a standard toilet, this is an increasingly urgent issue and helps promote community integration and inclusion.

Thank you,

Heather Kainz

HEATHER KAINZ
HEATHERKAINZ@GMAIL.COM
7438 W CRESCENT DRIVE
BRITT, MN 55710
218-410-9599