March 22, 2023

Support for SF999 -Adult-Sized Changing Tables

Dear State Local Government and Veterans Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support for SF999- Adult-Sized Changing Tables.

My name is, Caley Kolb, I am writing to you to tell you why this bill is so important to me and the greater disability community at large.

I am a mother to Finley. She is 7 years old and has Rett Syndrome. Rett syndrome is a rare genetic condition that makes her incontinent, among many other symptoms. I am learning the barriers to normalcy become greater the older your disabled child becomes. Maintaining Finley's dignity, safety and privacy should not be a luxury. We shouldn't have to pass on family outings because there is not a proper place to change her, or have to decide if we should change her on dirty bathroom floor, or in the trunk of our car. This issue is so important and critical to creating a community without boundaries.

Senators, I implore you to pass this bill on because the disability community, for too long, has been left out of the discussions and process that affects us the most and instead, non-disabled individuals have made decisions without our input, knowledge or needs as the starting point for any issue surrounding the disability community, and instead have always told us what is "good enough" for us.

I ask that you support our needs and community by voting to move this bill, SF999, forward as amended so that we, as a disability community, can actually start being a part of our communities as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 1990 and Olmstead Decision (1999) have stated we should be.

Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Caley Kolb 15624 Eagle Bay Dr. Apple Valley, Mn 55124 (630)373-4022