

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

I am writing in support of MN Bill SF 999, A bill for an act relating to the State Building Code; requiring the installation of adult-size changing facilities to the State Building Code; requiring the installation of adult-size changing facilities in restrooms accessible to the public.

One in five Minnesota families with children are raising a child, youth, or young adult with disabilities or extra needs, which includes children with extra medical, complex medical conditions, developmental, physical needs, behavioral or emotional needs. Estimates of children and youth with special health needs in Minnesota under age 18 range from 160,000 to 200,000.

Many children, youth and young adults with disabilities still require the use of diapers but can no longer fit on a baby changing table leaving parents and other caregivers to change diapers on bathroom floors in public areas. This is disrespectful and degrading, not to mention unsanitary. As a society, we must not only promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities, but also actively advocate for their full inclusion and provide the support needed that allows them to participate in their communities throughout their lives.

I am the Executive Director of Family Voices of Minnesota. As a parent run and staffed organization that provides support and information to families raising children/youth with disabilities and special health care needs across the state, this bill provides important support many, many families need.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Warm regards,  
Carolyn

Carolyn Allshouse  
Executive Director  
Family Voices of Minnesota