



March 12, 2023

To: Senate Labor Committee

Subject: Support of SF 999

Dear Chair McEwen and Committee Members,

My name is Judy Moe, and I am the Director of the Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership, known as R-DAP, and I also serve on the MN Council on Disability, but today I am writing to you as a mom of a 27 yr old daughter who was born with Spina Bifida. Due to her disability she has full paralysis from the waste down, and uses a wheelchair full time.

Senate File 999 is personal to my family because like most kids and adults with Spina Bifida my daughter started needing to be catheterized, every 2 hours, starting when she was 1 yr old.

Spina Bifida occurs once in every 2,758 births, and almost all children with Spina Bifida require lifelong clean intermittent catheterization.

Try and picture taking an older child, or an adult child, to the mall or anywhere out into the community, and only being able to stay for an hour or so because there are no bathrooms where she can lay down. Many parents of kids with Spina Bifida have told me that they typically lay their coats down on the floor of public restrooms in order to lay them down and catheterize them. Scores of times I have had to lay my daughter down in the back seat of our car to catheterize her, and besides the lack of privacy, it is not easy when the person doing the catheterizing is standing outside of the car in the rain, snow, or below zero temperatures.

Because of not having adult changing tables in bathrooms out in the community my daughter is greatly restricted from participating in normal life activities that most people take for granted. Having adult changing tables would change the lives not only for children and adults with Spina Bifida but for people who must lay down to do their bathroom cares.

Today you have a chance to remove this barrier for thousands of Minnesota children and adults.

Please move Senate File 999 forward and let the disability community know that we are not invisible and that you see us and intend to make accessibility a priority.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter of support.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Judy Moe
Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership
richfielddisabilityap@gmail.com
612-386-2638