

Support for SF999 -Adult-Sized Changing Tables

Dear Labor Committee,

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

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

I have 2 profoundly disabled children. They are visually impaired, have frequent seizures, and require full assistance as they do not chew, walk, use their hands functionally, etc. Despite all of that, their favorite thing to do is go on car rides and go to places with lots of people, sounds, lights, activity. Places like the zoo, a museum, a high school basketball game, a park, or a mall are a true delight to my children, yet they lack a safe place to change their diapers. Changing them on a hard, dirty, bathroom floor is not a reasonable option. What others don't even have to think about when they plan a family outing is something that keeps us from being able to go. With so many things they already can't experience, I ask you to make it easier for them to simply visit public spaces. My kids just want to be where others are, they want to be part of the community, and I think they deserve that.

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,

Kristen Guthmiller
9080 Kennedy Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302