

## Letter in Support of Adult Size Changing tables in Public restrooms

February 8, 2023

Re: Adult size changing tables in restroom's accessible to the public

A few years ago I was called to Annandale Elementary School to help my second grade daughter change her pants. She was struggling with chronic constipation and was unable to physically feel when she needed to use the restroom. Multiple times each week (sometimes twice in one day) I would travel 20 minutes and find her sitting in the nurses office waiting for me to help her get cleaned up. We would go into the small restroom in the nurse's office and my 7 year old would lay on the dirty floor while I changed her as there was no changing table. The other options would have been changing her on one of the 3 beds with a curtain hanging from the ceiling but due to the lack of privacy & the smell we used the restroom. I could have taken her to my SUV in the parking lot and changed her outside but even with the heat on in the vehicle the draft from the Minnesota weather would have been too much considering the activity involved.

This is just one example of how unprepared the world is for anyone who needs assistance to complete a basic human task we all need to do throughout our day. Everyone deserves to have access to a place that is clean and has privacy.

My son weighs 147 pounds and has disabilities of which cause him to have toileting accidents. While we can plan ahead and have supplies on hand we cannot plan where we will be when it happens. Having access to a family restroom with an appropriate changing table to change my adult size son would allow my son and myself to retain some dignity. Again – changing an adult in the back of an SUV or on the floor of a public restroom where eyes of all ages can see is just not acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly M. Korpela