



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Support of:
LD 93: An Act to Ensure Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Restrooms**

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
Room 206, Cross State Office Building
Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 700 individual members and 60 organizations across the state. The mission of MPHA is to improve and sustain the health and well-being of all people in Maine through health promotion, disease prevention, and the advancement of health equity. As a statewide nonprofit association, we advocate, act, and advise on critical public health challenges, aiming to improve the policies, systems, and environments that underlie health inequities – but which also have potential to improve health outcomes for all people in Maine. We are not tied to a national agenda, which means we are responsive to the needs of Maine's communities, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Maine Public Health Association is in support of LD 93: "An Act to Ensure Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Restrooms."

While many businesses and government buildings already provide diaper changing tables for parents with infants and toddlers in their public restrooms, these changing areas are primarily found in women's bathrooms. [Census data](#) show that 62% of households in Maine are married couples (gender data unavailable), and nearly 5% of non-married Maine households are led by a male householder. The COVID-19 pandemic, opioid epidemic, and other public health challenges and circumstances have impacted Maine's families. Single or partnered, a parent that can't access the changing table in the designated women's bathroom may be forced to change their child's diaper on the floor or another unsanitary and more public place. With enactment of this bill, single and married parents, regardless of gender, will have equal opportunity to provide diapering care for their children.

Maine Public Health Association believes this bill is a matter of health equity: all parents, regardless of gender, should have equal access to sanitary and semi-private places to care for their children. Thank you for considering our testimony.