

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 31, 2025

Re: LD 1121 An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and Honorable Members of the Joint State and Local Government Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1121.

Federal law does not require diaper changing stations in men's bathrooms. The Bathroom Accessible in Every Situation Act (BABIES) Act does require diaper changing stations in men's bathrooms in federal buildings.

https://prestigedistribution.com/pages/baby-changing-station-laws?srsId=AfmBOoqrWWF2SingAMU5zO_CAY3JowZjajqM2tkVXHqOfirzoeYuG5d; <https://www.koalabear.com/product-resources/changing-station-resources-landing-page/compliance-homepage/legislation-map/>

LD 1121 addresses a vital issue facing caregivers and parents when young children visiting public state buildings need their diapers changed. We no longer can turn a blind eye to the fact that many of the parents or caretakers are men. Too often they lack access to an appropriate site. Having access to diaper changing stations if the need arises while conducting business at a state building is reasonable, appropriate and shows consideration for the public.

Specifically, access to a convenient diaper changing station outside of family diaper changing rooms or female restrooms with such stations provides needed parity for all men who care for children, as parents or caregivers. It also ensures that no child is forced to wear dirty diapers because of lack of access to an appropriate diaper changing station or be changed in a dirty environment, such as in a car or on the ground. Moreover, this bill provides consideration for our citizens trying to conduct state business while meeting their childcare responsibilities. It ensures they do not have to leave the building merely to change a diaper or do so in an unsanitary and/or unnecessary inconvenient manner. Passing this bill will also enhance the image of our state as supporting all parents and childcare providers.

Even 40 years ago when I was raising my young children, my husband equally shared childcare responsibilities while I worked full time. Access to appropriate diaper changing stations for him was extremely difficult and many times our children were changed in the public - in our car, on the ground, on a stroller with the back leaning back, on the floor in public spaces, etc. Things should be quite different today, but it is shocking how so little has changed in 40 years. Diaper changing stations are essential and all caregivers must have access to such in state buildings.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1121.

Anne Gallaudet,
Scarborough, ME