

Riley Nelson
Pittsfield, ME

April 3, 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,

My Name is Riley Nelson. You may or may not know me as the then high school student, and member of Maine District 68, as Represented by Representative Amanda Collamore, who helped author the 131st's LD 93, the foundation and inspiration for this very bill you have before you.

It has been two years since this bill was first authored, and a year since it was introduced at the State House, where, as LD 93, it was passed to be enacted, and subsequently died when it was not funded.

I urge that you vote ought to pass on LD 1121. There is more than enough precedent based upon the federal B.A.B.I.E.S act, and the several other U.S. States that have similar legislation. These include but are not limited to: California HSC§118506, Illinois Public Act 101-0293, and Nevada AB 241.

This is an issue of both equality and equity. We as a state have long been a leader in the realm of equal rights, and it is deeply encoded into our legislation and state constitution. This legislation is important for equality and balanced parenthood responsibility. Beyond this, it is important to consider the gay adoptive dads of our state, who do not have any access to changing stations whatsoever. This puts them and their child at undue risk. And what about the single fathers who are just trying to do right by their child? What should they do?

This is also an issue of health and safety, namely for the infant to have a clean place to be changed, but also for the public who currently are faced with dads who are forced to change their children on store shelves or bathroom sinks.

As this bill stands it is a huge step in the correct direction by requiring changing stations be accessible to all in state buildings. It is a step towards measures other states have already taken, which require changing stations in all public restrooms. It is a step forward. A step for what's right. This should not be a divisive idea. This is a human fact of life, and a need for all.

As a man who hopes to one day be a father in our lovely state, I once again urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1121, as the 131st did for LD 93.

Thank you.

-Riley Nelson, Pittsfield, ME