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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1121
An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
March 31, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23 in the Legislature, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am here to testify in support of LD 1121, "An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public."

This bill simply requires that public buildings in Maine have diaper changing stations in men's and women's bathrooms. This bill will not require costly renovations for older buildings but only applies to new construction.

Equal access to changing stations is already required for federal buildings. Additionally, nine states have already enacted similar legislation and two more have bills before their Legislatures this year. It surprises me that Maine, and every state, does not already have this type of law on the books.

Often, because changing stations are in women's restrooms but not men's, the burden of changing diapers falls on women. When fathers come to state buildings with a young baby, they should have the same tools to care for their little one as a mother. By making this slight change in Maine, we set a good example that shows Maine's commitment to all caretakers. This bill requires that stations are included in bathrooms that are accessible by men and women, in order to make sure that parents can provide care for their children.

When I became Senate President, I wanted to find ways to make the Maine Legislature more accessible and transparent for Mainers from all walks of life. If you're a father who is passionate about a bill coming here to testify with your child, we can break down this one barrier to make the building more accessible to all. To me, this is a small actionable change that I am glad to see Rep. Collamore introduce. I am pleased to support it.

Again, I am so glad that this bill has been brought forward. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to take questions.