Senator Robyn Kennedy, Chair September 9, 2025

Representative Jay Livingstone, Chair

Senator Liz Miranda, Vice Chair

Representative Judith Garcia, Vice Chair

Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA 02133

**RE: H.256/S102 - An Act requiring universal changing stations in public buildings.**

To the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities,

My name is Paul Lutfy, and I live in the town of Milford. I am a member of the Massachusetts Developmental Disability Council, where our mission is to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and families to enhance independence, productivity and inclusion. I am also the parent/guardian of an adult son with cerebral palsy who is completely dependent on others for all his care.

This bill is important to me because we often take Eric to different places and changing his brief is often a challenge. At one time I had set up a table in our Honda Odyssey conversion van. This became more difficult over time as he grew but was often the best option.  This becomes even more problematic in the winter when temperatures are freezing.

As of January, we had to replace the Honda and where our money is a little tighter now we have decided on a Chrysler Pacifica. We forfeited a lift system and went with the rear entry option. So, there is no longer a back seat. The rear ramp does fold down and can be used as a sort of bed where I lay a mat and pillow and can change his brief that way. On a recent outing to the Cape Cod Canal we parked on a dead-end street that provides access to the bike path. While there, Eric needed to be changed. While changing him a car pulled up behind us. My wife held up a blanket to give us some privacy.

He also lives in a group home with others who also require the same care, which often makes outings for staff challenging and I am sure plays a role in the frequency and locations that they can go. Some of these individuals don’t have parents/guardians that can accommodate them and only get out in the community when the group home can provide for them.

This bill is important because, from my own experience, it would make providing the proper care and dignity easier and safer for both the person providing care and the person requiring assistance. I have brought photos of the set-ups I have had to employ in order for my son to be out and about with us.

Thank you for your time.

Paul Lutfy