

July 14, 2025

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your continued commitment to and critical work protecting and advancing the rights of disabled people. At this time, we write with utmost urgency regarding including funding for purchasing and installing universal changing tables in the Capitol Complex's restrooms in the Legislative Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2026. Ensuring this funding is in the Legislative Appropriations bill is critical for disabled people in the United States.

The First Amendment of the U.S. The Constitution specifically identifies that people have the right to "petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Disabled people and their families should have equal access to this basic right. Unfortunately, many are unable to or have difficulty doing so due to lack of accessible restrooms. The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) incorporates Title II (public services) and III (public accommodations) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 under 2 U.S. Code § 1331. This applies to specific entities, including each office of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Architect of the Capitol (which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Capitol), and other offices within the legislative branch. The ADA utilizes the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 to create standards for building accessibility. However, they do not include specifications on adult changing tables. The International Code Council specifies the inclusion of adjustable adult changing tables in their International Building Code (section A117.1).

Currently, disabled people and their families are forced to improvise by either changing disabled people on the bathroom floor or utilizing the Capitol Complex's health unit—if it is open and available. Requiring people to lay down on restroom floors is highly unsanitary and can cause injuries to both the disabled person and their care provider. Universal changing tables allow caregivers to assist disabled people using restroom facilities safely and in a sanitary manner. This is a common sense, low-cost way to ensure basic dignity for all when using the restrooms and will alleviate any further safety concerns.

There have been multiple requests, including a formal letter from your office that was co-signed by Senators Schmitt, Casey, and Duckworth in September 2023, for the Architect of the Capitol to install at least one universal changing table within the Capitol Visitors Center and at least one universal changing table in each of the Senate and House office buildings. However, there has

yet to be substantial progress in installing them. We encourage Congress to provide direct funding to install universal changing tables in the next FY 2026 Appropriations bill. This will help ensure the dignity and safety of disabled people and their family members while protecting their first amendment rights to petition their government.

Sincerely,

The Center for American Progress  
Little Lobbyists  
Access Living  
Adult Sized Changing Table for People with Disabilities  
Aimed Alliance  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health & Disability  
Asian Americans United  
Autistic People of Color Fund  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
CommunicationsFIRST  
Conquering CHD  
Cure SMA  
Detroit Disability Power  
Disability Culture Lab  
Disability Network Mid-Michigan  
Disability Resource Center, Joliet, IL  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights & Resources  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
FIU Disabled Student Union Bureau  
Girls Chronically Rock  
Ibis Reproductive Health  
IMPACT CIL  
Infusion Access Foundation  
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living  
Ithaca Mental Patients Advocacy Coalition (IMPAC)  
KIF1A.ORG  
Lane Independent Living Alliance  
M-CM Network

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Minority Quality Forum  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
New Disabled South  
Northern Regional Center for Independent Living  
Partnership to Improve Patient Care  
Social Security Works  
Speak Foundation  
The Arc of the United States  
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
The Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois  
United Spinal Association  
WeMatter Organization  
Women's March  
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Lauren Schrero  
Jennifer Sibley  
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Christine Sloane  
Sawyer Stearns  
Lindsay Sulzer  
Leslie Templeton  
Caroline Thornton  
Emily Voorde  
Tari Walts  
Heather Watkins  
Christian Weller  
Gina Wetstein  
Loren Whitaker  
Martha Wong  
Patricia Wood