

I am writing in support of the proposed budget for the Department of Developmental Disabilities. These funds are crucial for our family to have much needed Direct Support Providers as well as funds to support installing more universal changing tables in public restrooms around Ohio.

This is Ella and she is 14 years old. She enjoys being out in the public and likes long walks. Changing Ella's diaper/briefs in public is just not possible anymore. She is too big to put on the infant changing tables. Our entire family must completely work around Ella's schedule. After a diaper change, we are able to leave home for a couple hours, but must quickly return home to change her diaper. If public bathrooms would have an adult size changing station available, life would be much easier to go out and about. A recent trip to a blue jackets game was a huge reminder that this is needed. Ella had to sit in a wet diaper for a long time until we came all the way home. This could cause skin break down and lead to other medical problems like urinary tract infections which could easily be solved with a changing table.

Life is difficult enough for people with special needs. Let's try to ease the burden by installing handicapped changing tables in all public restrooms.

Sincerely,  
Shauna Wilson  
Delaware, OH

