

We are writing in support of the Ohio Budget bill and increased funding for the Department of Developmental Disabilities and for adult/universal changing stations in our public places.

Imagine it, not being able to speak, being dependent on other people to dress you, feed you, move you without being able to tell them that you have an itch, that you “don’t like that” or that you simply are cold or hot. There are good days and bad days, but again you may not be able to express yourself to tell your caregiver how you feel.

Now imagine that maybe you’re having a good day and you go to a park to play with your family or friends, but alas you have the urge to use the bathroom, as do most human beings. Your caregiver takes you to the closest restroom to the accessible playground, but there is not an accessible changing station. The standard infant changing station is too small to hold your larger frame and the only available option is the dirty, disgusting floor where people have stepped with their germ filled shoes. Also, when was the last time the public park’s bathroom floor was cleaned! If you were able to communicate verbally, wouldn’t you want to scream “NO!”, throw a tantrum, or cry? Not to mention, everyone can “see” you being changed on said floor as there is no privacy even if you’re in the accessible stall.

Doesn’t everyone deserve privacy and decency while out an about trying to have a nice day at the park or public space? Please consider installing an adult changing table in all public spaces where everyone has access to it! My son, Ben, below, is why I’m asking for inclusion for ALL!

Andrea, Mike and Ben Rogowski, Lewis Center, OH

