

Committee on Public Safety and Security

Public Testimony of the CT Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
S.B. 533: An Act Concerning Access to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Buildings
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The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is a statewide, nonprofit organization that advocates for and empowers women and girls, especially those who are underserved or marginalized. Since 1973, CWEALF is a leading advocate for policy solutions that enhance women's economic security.

CWEALF urges the Committee to support *S.B. 533: An Act Concerning Access to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Buildings*.

Senate Bill No. 533 takes necessary steps to promote equal access to diaper changing stations in any newly constructed or substantially renovated public building. By introducing this bill, parents, regardless of gender identity, will have adequate access to a diaper changing station.

This bill follows a New York law that took effect in January 2019¹ and requires businesses including movie theaters, restaurants, and public facilities to include changing tables in men's restrooms. Inadequate availability of changing tables places the brunt of responsibility on female-identified members of a household and prevent male-identified members from caregiving.

CWEALF urges the Committee to support *S.B. 533* to promote the installation and access of diaper changing stations in Connecticut. Every family is unique, and all deserve access to a clean, safe changing station for their children, regardless of the parent's gender or gender identity.

1. New York City is Now Mandating Baby Changing Tables in Men's Restrooms. Retrieved from <https://www.workingmother.com/this-city-is-now-mandating-baby-changing-tables-in-mens-restrooms>
2. Men's Restrooms Will Now Require Baby Changing Stations. Thanks, Obama! Retrieved from https://www.huffpost.com/entry/mens-restrooms-will-now-require-baby-changing-stations-thanks-obama_n_57f25ee4b068ecb5e0d3b0