

6328

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

My name is Kimberly Swenson, I am a resident of Danbury, CT and a student at Salve Regina University. I am emailing you about the Connecticut Restroom Act. After being a witness to a close family member who was affected by Ulcerative Colitis my support for this bill is tremendous. The problems with going out and needing to use the restroom is still something he is affected by today. This bill will help to allow him an easier time getting out of the house and enjoying life the way the rest of the world lives.

Thank you for consideration,
Kimberly Swenson

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, I am a student at Roger Williams University, and a resident of Danbury, CT. I fully support House Bill 6328. I know a few people who have ulcerative colitis, and Crohn's Disease. These problems prevent them from living their life to its fullest potential. Most are embarrassed or nervous to go out much due to their frequent rest room usage. If this bill is passed, it would make access much easier, and allow these good people to partake in every day activities that we take for granted. I know that if I was in their position, I would have a huge problem spending significant time in public. The passing of this bill will truly help influence these people's lives positively. Thank you for your time and concern.

Dan De Maglie

Please support House bill 6328. It will enable thousands of medically handicapped individuals who suffer through the daily maintenance of Ostomy devices in public places.

Thank you,
Brian Skarda
Danbury, CT

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6328. I feel it is of critical importance to those afflicted with these conditions and their ability to function as equal citizens.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth S Smith

Liz

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my personal support for House Bill 6328 which will provide a fundamental quality of life benefit for those persons affected with such medical conditions.

Your careful consideration of House Bill 6328 is appreciated. Thank you.

Steven L. Wells

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6328. I feel it is of critical importance to those afflicted with these conditions and their ability to function as equal citizens.

Shirley Swenson

To all,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6328. These individuals that are in need of this bill are entitled to go to the same public places as I do and should have full access to toilet facilities as they need. I was not aware that these individuals could not go to certain stores, restaurants etc. and in my opinion to not pass this bill would be a disgrace. We have made public places accessible to the handicap so why exclude this group from being able to go everywhere like everyone else. Please pass House Bill 6328. Thank you.

Kim St. Jean

I write this in support of Representative Taborsak's House Bill 6328, which I understand will be the subject of a hearing before your committee.

If signed into law, the act will greatly improve the quality of life for numerous Connecticut citizens, who suffer from several debilitating diseases not widely known about or fully understood. It would restore to them some basic human dignity that most take for granted. It would greatly increase their comfort level knowing that heretofore options are now available when their affliction un-expectantly acts-up.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Keenan
8 Eastview Rd.
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Dear Legislators:

Please lend your support to House bill 6328, The CT Restroom Act. I know many individuals with stomach disorders, including my twenty-one year old son. Going out can be a real struggle unless there is access to a restroom. The Bill will help many people live their lives without the fear of being trapped.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard A. Smith
25 Jeremy Drive
New Fairfield, CT

I would like to document my wife, Iris Gilligan and I have read the bill & support its passage.

As a medical and security professionals, we understand both the customer need and exposure concern businesses may have. We feel the bill will not impose a hardship to business community, encourages a much needed "common courtesy" approach that is needed & appreciated in these stressful times. It also seems that enforcement would be relatively easy based on complaints or other regulator inspectors including this "check" as part of their regular process.

Thanks in advance for your consideration & hopefully, your support. I'd welcome & appreciate and dissenting arguments on this bill.

Dear Legislators:

Please accept this in support of House Bill 6328.

Regards,

Mark

Mark Pancrazio
Smith & Pancrazio
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the Connecticut Restroom Access Act sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides.

The legislation would enable certain individuals, who have Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome or a similar medical condition, to access the toilet facilities of retail establishments that do not have a public restroom.

I suffered from colitis for 15 years and needed to know where each bathroom was when I shopped. Since I could not find a bathroom in most cases I stayed home much of the time. Now it is time for a change, to allow everyone the freedom to move about freely without restrictions. This restroom act would be a big step in the right direction.

I cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. The *Connecticut Restroom Access Act* would have a very positive impact on the quality of life for many individuals with these serious, chronic illnesses but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

I ask you to please consider and support #5621 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Mary Babbitt

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the Connecticut Restroom Access Act sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides.

The legislation would enable certain individuals, who have Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome or a similar medical condition, to access the toilet facilities of retail establishments that do not have a public restroom.

I cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. The *Connecticut Restroom Access Act* would have a very positive impact on the quality of life for many individuals with these serious, chronic illnesses but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

I ask you to please consider and support #5621 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lauren Brumell

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the Connecticut Restroom Access Act sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides.

The legislation would enable people like me who have Crohn's Disease, as well as other individuals who suffer from ailments like ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome or a similar medical condition, to access the toilet facilities of retail establishments that do not have a public restroom.

I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in September 2007, when I was a college senior, after a year of unexplained and severe illness. Prior to my diagnosis, I was at the point where I split my time between my bedroom and my bathroom at my parent's home. I had lost 30 pounds, I couldn't eat, I eventually needed surgery, and I couldn't live on my own. Crohn's Disease can flare up at any time, and even when it is considered in "remission" patients can have attacks of extreme pain and diarrhea - and frequently do. I would say that, even on a healthy diet, leading an active lifestyle, and taking the highest possible dosage of anti-inflammatories available daily, this happens to me a couple of times a week. While I would probably seem perfectly healthy if we spoke, there are days I wake up and don't want to leave my home - days where I am afraid to get in my car and drive to work. Sometimes, depending on how I feel, I can't imagine going for a quick shopping trip or a visit to downtown.

I cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and to beg and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. The *Connecticut Restroom Access Act* would have a VERY positive impact on the quality of life for many people with these serious, chronic illnesses (more than 1 in 200 have been diagnosed with these horrible diseases) but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

I ask you to please consider and support #5621 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much for your support!

Sincerely,
Kristin O. Heller

I am writing in support of the CT Restroom Act, Proposed Bill 5621. I feel it is extremely important for this bill to pass. I have no health problems but I have friends and family who do. I have seen how desperate they can be to find a restroom on the spur of the moment. Please take the time to consider this very important bill-it could make a huge difference in many lives. Some people don't even go out for fear that they won't be able to access a restroom. This bill could really change their lives allowing them to enjoy the freedom that the rest of us take for granted. Thank you.

Laurie Waterman

Danbury, CT

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

My name is Gary R. Michael Jr. I am an attorney in Danbury, Connecticut. I fully support and urge the Committee to pass the proposed bill. The proposed bill adequately addresses the issues of safety and liability. As the medical conditions referenced in the proposed bill affects many citizens I again urge the Committee to pass this bill. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Michael Jr.
Danbury, CT

Good Morning,

I am writing to request your support for the Restroom Act bill that will be presented on Friday 2/6/09. I have many friends who would benefit from this legislation and it would not impose a substantial financial burden on businesses.

Thank you for your time,

Pam Fedigan
New Fairfield, CT

My name is Meg Riefberg and I have been diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome. My mother suffers from Crohn's Disease. The CT Restroom Act introduced by Rep. Joe Taborsak is essential for people who suffer from IBS, Crohn's and other bowel disorders. I urge you to support this bill. It is imperative that me, and people like me, have the comfort of knowing that our needs will be met while out in public. I thank you for your consideration!

Very truly yours,

Meg L. Haddad, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
Riefberg, Smart, Donohue and NeJame P.C.
Attorneys at Law

As a friend of someone that suffers from Crohns' Disease, I'd like it known that I support this bill and ask that you support it, too!

Susan A. Mazzucco
Danbury, CT 06811

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

On behalf of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Connecticut Chapter I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the **Raised House Bill No. 6328** entitled "**An Act Concerning Customer Access to Restrooms in Retail Establishments**" sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides. We at CCFA cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. There are 1.4 million Americans who suffer from Crohn's & Colitis with an estimated 17,000 being residents of Connecticut. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. A bill for restroom access would have a very positive impact on the quality of life for many individuals with these serious, chronic illnesses but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

Not only am I the Development Manager of CCFA's Connecticut Chapter, but I have a personal connection as well. Last year at the age of 14 my niece who lives in West Hartford was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. She initially suffered from diarrhea and vomiting and finding a bathroom on a moment's notice was of the essence. Occasionally she was unsuccessful and was incontinent of stool. I couldn't imagine being a fourteen year old, eighth grader having to deal with this along with all the other trials and tribulations of growing up. Fortunately, Becky is feeling better now and her disease is in remission with the help of much medication. They are unable to predict what the future holds for her which is why the passage of this act would be one less worry for her. Her focus now should be on what to wear to school, mid-terms and if she's going to make jazz band next year.

We at the Connecticut Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America ask you to please consider and support bill #6328 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. My number is 203.208.3130. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Mary Grande
Development Manager
Connecticut Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America
Work Address: PO Box 275
Branford CT 06405

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the **Raised House Bill No. 6328** entitled "**An Act Concerning Customer Access to Restrooms in Retail Establishments**"

sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides.

I am a gastroenterologist who specializes in the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Patients in my practice frequently need ready access to a bathroom, due to their medical condition. I support this legislation because it would enable patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis to access the toilet facilities of retail establishments that do not have a public restroom.

I cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. A bill for restroom access would have a very positive impact on the quality of life for many individuals with these serious, chronic illnesses but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

I ask you to please consider and support bill #6328 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Ginsburg, MD
Gastroenterology Center of Connecticut
Hamden, CT 06518

I would ask that you support and vote in the affirmative to an upcoming bill.

The official bill number is Raised House Bill No. 6328 entitled "An Act Concerning Customer Access to Restrooms in Retail Establishments."

Passage of this bill is vital to those who suffer from diseases which requires urgent use of a rest room - sometimes between 6-12 times a day.

Your Connecticut constituents, those with Ostomy Devices (some external/some internal) or those who suffer from Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis - would deeply appreciate the sometimes taken for granted "normality" of being allowing to go shopping or to a restaurant without the fear of being denied bathroom access at a "critical moment".

The alternative is to simply stay home.

As an involved Connecticut voter, I will be paying close attention to those members of the Public Health Committee who support this important bill. Thank you.

Cordially,

Mark Swenson
Southbury, CT 06488

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I am writing to request that the Public Health Committee support the Connecticut Restroom Access Act sponsored by Representatives Joseph Taborsak and Themis Klarides.

The legislation would enable certain individuals, who have Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome or a similar medical condition, to access the toilet facilities of retail establishments that do not have a public restroom.

Beth, you may not know that Becky was diagnosed with Crohn's disease last January. Luckily, with my background as a pediatric nurse, I recognized the symptoms and she was quickly diagnosed. She initially suffered from diarrhea and vomiting and finding a bathroom on a moment's notice was of the essence.

Occasionally she was unsuccessful and was incontinent of stool. I couldn't imagine being a fourteen year old, eighth grader having to deal with this along with all the other trials and tribulations of growing up.

Fortunately, Becky is feeling better now and her disease is in remission with the help of much medication.

They are unable to predict what the future holds for her which is why the passage of this act would be one less worry for her. Her focus now should be on what to wear to school, mid-terms and if she's going to make jazz band next year. Thank you for consideration in supporting this act.

I cannot overemphasize how critically important this legislation is to the thousands of adults and children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in Connecticut who frequently suffer from sudden and extreme attacks of diarrhea. Obviously, this is not a subject easily discussed in public or in your committee. Imagine then, how difficult it is for an individual who needs rapid access to a bathroom to discuss their situation and plead for access while beset by urgency and cramping. The *Connecticut Restroom Access Act* would have a very positive impact on the quality of life for many individuals with these serious, chronic illnesses but involve relatively minor costs and inconveniences for others.

I ask you to please consider and support #5621 this session. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Julie, Mark, Becky and Billy Schwartz