

Distinguished Members of the Connecticut Public Health Committee:

I am writing to ask your support for passage of The Connecticut Restroom Act, proposed by Rep. Joseph J. Taborsak. As a mother of an 28 year old daughter afflicted with Crohn's Disease, I have witnessed the humiliation she has suffered when being denied access to bathroom facilities. The misconception that an afflicted individual can just "wait" to find an accessible facility is prevalent in the community, as well as a lack of awareness of the extreme pain the person is suffering at the same time. A little unknown symptom of Crohn's is "opposite joint arthritis" which causes extreme joint pain in the legs and ankles. Just imagine all of these symptoms coming at the same time, and not being allowed to use the nearest restroom. The outcome is almost never good for the patient.

Many people afflicted with Crohn's and other IBS diseases become homebound, and even a simple trip to the grocery store must be carefully planned. The nature of these diseases is embarrassing enough, and the lack of understanding about the necessity for bathroom access only adds more pain to the afflicted person.

Rep. Taborsak's bill is a compassionate, common sense bill that would allow persons afflicted with Crohn's and other medical conditions the opportunity to go out into the community without the fear. Please make Connecticut a leader in this legislation and set the example for other states to follow.

Sincerely,

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