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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****PRESS RELEASE****

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION
SPONSORED BY SUPERVISOR KATY TANG EXPANDING BABY DIAPER-
CHANGING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Ordinance requires diaper-changing accommodations in all City and County of San Francisco buildings, private establishments that already offer accommodations to women, and all public-serving establishments

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously supported on first reading legislation expanding the availability of baby diaper-changing accommodations in public and private buildings. The San Francisco Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation (BABIES) Ordinance requires:

- All City and County of San Francisco buildings to install diaper-changing accommodations;
- Business establishments that currently provide diaper-changing accommodations in a female restroom to also provide accommodations in a male or gender-neutral restroom; and
- Diaper-changing accommodations in public-serving businesses moving forward for public-serving businesses, diaper-changing accommodations are required if the building is going through new construction or substantial renovation of their restrooms (\$50,000 or more).

“This legislation goes beyond just providing a convenient and sanitary place for parents to change diapers,” said Supervisor Tang. “I hope this new law causes us to question and break down existing stereotypes about childcare.”

The SF BABIES Ordinance builds upon the federal BABIES Act (H.R. 5147) that was signed into law on October 7, 2016 by President Barack Obama by requiring diaper-changing accommodations in public City buildings. The federal BABIES Act requires diaper-changing accommodations in male and female restrooms in public federal buildings.

Previously, San Francisco required diaper-changing accommodations in new “Public-Serving” and “Substantially Renovated” establishments based on a law passed in 2005. However, the regulation fell under the Planning Department. The SF BABIES Ordinance will transfer



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oversight and enforcement of this new regulation to the Department of Building Inspection to ensure compliance.

Additionally, current establishments that offer diaper-changing accommodations in a female restroom have twelve months from the effective date of the legislation to provide accommodations in a male or gender-neutral restroom. Patrons who are not offered an accommodation after the implementation date can file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.

Diaper-changing accommodations are essential in childcare. According to a national survey commissioned by Koala Bear Kare, 77 percent of parents with children under six years of age have used baby changing facilities; among them, 34 percent have used diaper-changing stations six or more times per month. With a growing number of fathers who are choosing to stay at home with their children (the number has doubled since 1989 to 2 million in 2012, according to the Pew Research Center), making diaper-changing facilities accessible to men is an essential step in the journey toward gender equality in child care.

“What kind of a message are we sending when existing accommodations target women as the sole child care providers? Society has changed, and so must our views on child care,” said Supervisor Tang.

For more information, please contact Supervisor Katy Tang’s office at (415) 554-7460 or Katy.Tang@sfgov.org.

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