

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**SUPERVISOR KATY TANG INTRODUCES LEGISLATION EXPANDING  
AVAILABILITY OF BABY DIAPER-CHANGING ACCOMMODATIONS**

*Ordinance builds on federal law requiring diaper-changing accommodations in federal buildings to all City and County of San Francisco buildings, private establishments that already offer accommodations to women, and all public-serving establishments*

Supervisor Katy Tang introduced legislation today expanding the availability of baby diaper-changing accommodations in public and private buildings. The San Francisco Bathrooms Accessible for Babies 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 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).

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. The federal BABIES Act requires diaper-changing accommodations in male and female restrooms in public federal buildings.

“We must move past gendered roles of childcare, and especially in a city that prides itself on being family-friendly and a leader on issues of gender equality and discrimination,” said Supervisor Katy Tang. “This legislation will ensure that all parents have access to sanitary diaper-changing accommodations.”

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

“More often than not, a baby changing station is not a consideration given to fathers,” said new father Thomas Lee, resident of San Francisco. “It hit home when I was shown the changing station in the men's restroom, which was a chair next to the toilet. The chair was not large

enough to fit my son, and going back to the car was not an option. I was not allowed in the women's restroom, since I had the 'changing station' in the men's restroom. I hope I never have to get down on my knees in a public restroom to change my son again.”

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 use 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.

“This proposed 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.”

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