

AMERICAN ATHEISTS

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Senator James Coleman
Chair, Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: SUPPORT for HB 1057, Testimony from American Atheists in support of the the Fair and Friendly Restroom Act

Dear Chairperson Coleman and Members of the Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee:

American Atheists, on behalf of its constituents in Colorado, thanks you for holding a hearing on HB 1057, the Fair and Friendly Restroom Act. This legislation would ensure that *all* Coloradans have access to adequate restroom facilities, including families with children, transgender and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities and those who may need assistance. We urge the committee to swiftly pass this vital measure to provide safe public facilities for all.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheism and atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. American Atheists believes that all Americans should be equally protected under the law, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious beliefs or lack thereof. No individual should be subjected to discrimination and harassment due to the religious beliefs of others.

Most Americans believe that there are already explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across our country.¹ Unfortunately, they are wrong, and a number of states that do not offer critical protections in areas like restroom facilities. And sadly discrimination against LGBTQ people is still rampant. A 2016 report showed that one in four LGBTQ people experienced discrimination in the past year.² Furthermore, the U.S. Transgender Survey showed that nearly 60% of respondents avoided using a public restroom in the past year because they

¹ Moore P. (2014). Poll Results: Discrimination. You Gov, June 18, 2014. Available at <https://today.yougov.com/topics/legal/articles-reports/2014/06/18/poll-results-discrimination>.

² Singh A and Durso L. Widespread Discrimination Continues to Shape LGBT People’s Lives in Both Subtle and Significant Ways. Center for American Progress, May 2, 2017. Available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/news/2017/05/02/429529/widespread-discrimination-continues-shape-lgbt-peoples-lives-subtle-significant-ways/>.

feared confrontation or other problems.³ Perhaps most notably is that 12% of respondents reported being verbally harassed when accessing a restroom. 1% indicated being physically assaulted and another 1% reported sexual assault. Finally, nearly one-third of respondents indicated that they limited the amount that they ate and drank to avoid accessing the restroom. No person should have to worry themselves with the worry of what they are eating or drinking or even visiting places out of fear for their safety. A lack of available restrooms consistent with an individual's gender identity purposely excludes certain individuals and can put them at risk of harassment, violence, and pose health risks. The Fair and Family Friendly Restrooms Act can help mitigate this cruel harm.

Routinely, men's restrooms and single-stall restrooms do not provide diaper changing stations. Without access to hygienic and safe diaper changing stations care providers may be forced to resort to unsafe and unsanitary changing locations, such as the floors of public restrooms. This concern extends to those with disabilities and their caregivers. Many providers may have to assist their loved ones in restrooms and lack the safe and sanitary space to do so. Caretakers and providers have to care for themselves and others. They should not have to concern themselves with the question of where they may be able to properly care for their loved ones while in public. Colorado lawmakers now have an opportunity to remedy this lack of inclusion by passing the Fair and Family Friendly Restrooms Act. The bill would make it clear that all residents of Colorado should access safe facilities is a necessity and not a privilege.

We strongly support the Fair and Family Friendly Restrooms Act, and we urge you to swiftly pass this important bill. If you should have any questions regarding American Atheists' support for HB 1057, please contact me by email at bwilliams@atheists.org

Sincerely,



Brittany Williams
State Policy Counsel
American Atheists

cc: All Members of the Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee

³ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality.



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Project

Fair & Family Friendly Restrooms
Project: Genderless Bathroom
Icons Date: July 9, 2019

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GENDER SEGREGATED BATHROOMS



History:

In the 1970s the department of US transportation commission American Institute of graphic artist to create pictographs that would be used for public transportation, and public buildings. AIGA was mostly made of up white men, and still is having issues with inclusion and diversity within the organization.

Problem:

The current signage is not only sexist , it is not inclusive of the of Transgender and gender none-conforming communities. This design is outdated and a contemporary form of segregation.



Genderless Iconography



Solution:

Design for the future.

Require new developments to design bathroom systems that are genderless, have floor to ceiling single stalls, and open concept hand-washing and baby changing stations.

- Eliminate the stick figure icons.
- Implement genderless icon signs that features the function of the bathroom rather than the gender.

Example: A toilet sign where toilets are exclusively the fixtures in the restroom area. Urinal and a toilet for the fixtures are exclusively used.

Concept Art



Although this accessibility icon only represents those with physical disabilities, the icon was originally developed to indicate that larger stalls are available for those who are not able-bodied and require more space and safety protections. The updated icon done by The Accessible Icon Project (sourced from accessibleicon.org) was designed to create a more inclusive and life affirming icon that is more empowering, vibrant and full of life. The establishing icon could be considered as an icon representing the future and power of the community of people with disabilities.



The changing table icon was a game changer for parents and childcare providers. It made it possible for them to leave their house and have the ability to hygienically change their child. Although the changing table icons themselves are not a sign of sexism, the placement of the symbols are - because they are almost never available in Urinal Bathrooms.



The new *Urinal Restroom Icon is a simple icon that recognizes the urinal as being the primary fixture in the restroom facility. ☒If the urinal was abolished, bathroom architecture could be designed for a ☒more efficient, hygienic and equitable experience for everyone.

*Urinal bathroom refers to the historically male restroom, whereas Toilet restroom refers to the historically women's restroom. We will continue to refer to each based on the fixture in the room rather than Gender. The goal is to make the bathroom an efficient,hygienic, non political, and equitable experience for everyone



The Toilet icon is the key to an equitable bathroom experience. It is a genderless icon that indicates that behind the stall door is a functional, genderless fixture.. Having a single stall and floor to ceiling dividers creates more privacy and safety for everyone. It also eliminates the need for urinals. Everyone Wins!



OTHER ICON SOLUTIONS

GENDERLESS BATHROOM ICON SYSTEM PROJECT



1 Sign Type B.1: Toilet/Accessible - Front View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"

1 Sign Type B.2: Toilet/Changing - Front View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"

2 Sign Type C: Urinal/Toilet Accessible - Front View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"

3 Sign Type D: Toilet/Changing Accessible - Front View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"

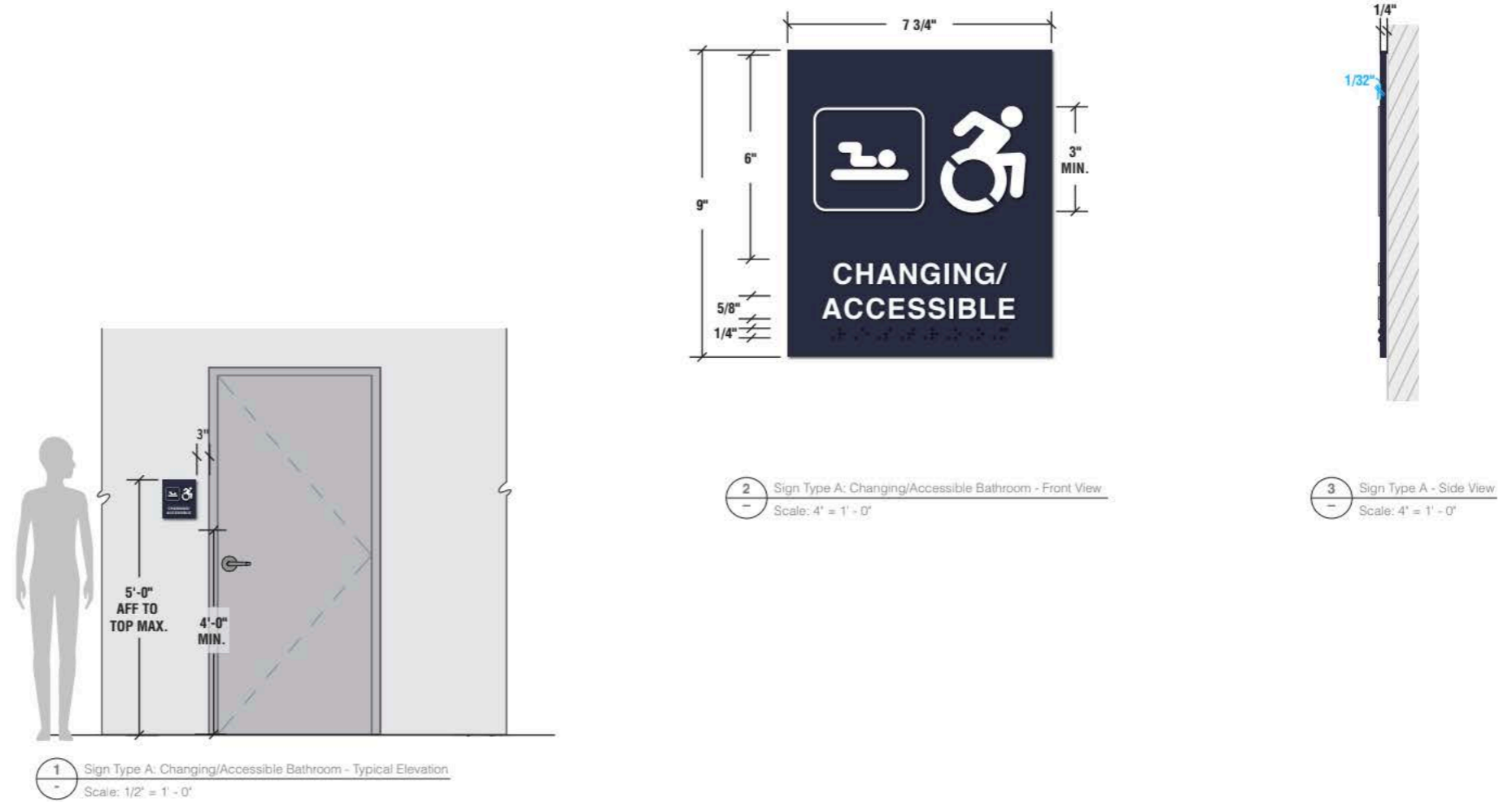
4 B.1,B.2,C,D - Side View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"



- B.1 Sign Type
- B.2 Sign Type
- C Sign Type
- D Sign Type

SIGN TYPE A

GENDERLESS BATHROOM ICON SYSTEM PROJECT





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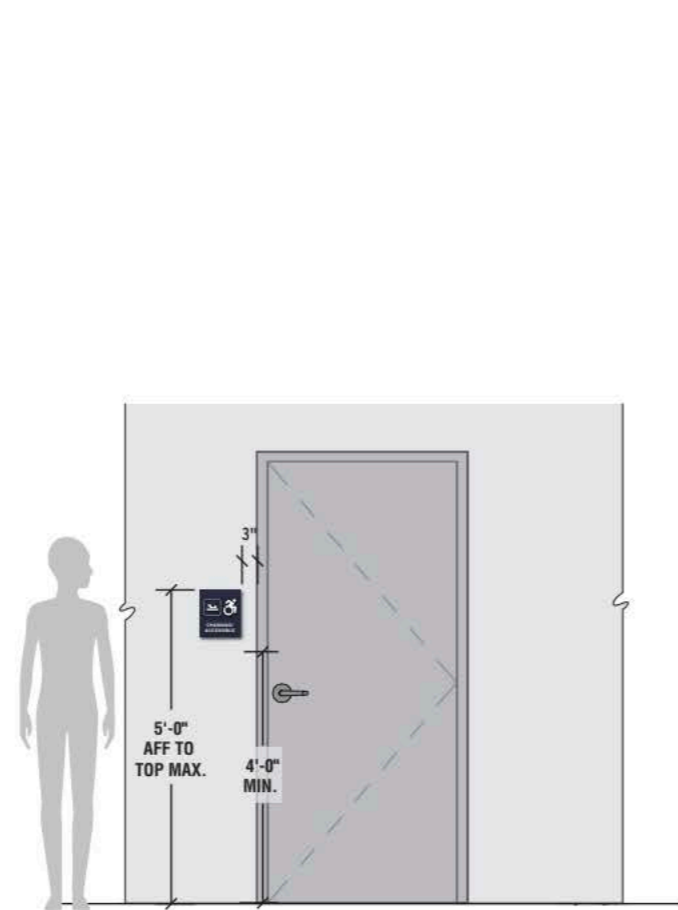
GENDERLESS BATHROOM ICON SYSTEM PROJECT



- B.1 Sign Type
- B.2 Sign Type
- C Sign Type
- D Sign Type

SIGN TYPE A

GENDERLESS BATHROOM ICON SYSTEM PROJECT



1 Sign Type A: Changing/Accessible Bathroom - Typical Elevation
Scale: 1/2" = 1' - 0"



2 Sign Type A: Changing/Accessible Bathroom - Front View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"



3 Sign Type A - Side View
Scale: 4" = 1' - 0"





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