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Memorandum in Support

TO: New York State Senate Disabilities Committee

Date: March 31, 2026

RE: **S.4042-A (Harckham)/A.6219-A (Burdick) – on Agenda**

Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP State) was founded in 1946 by parents of children with cerebral palsy looking for services. Today it is a broad-based, multi-service organization with 30 Affiliates across the state and 19,000 employees providing support, services, and programs across the lifespan for over 100,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. CP State was founded and has worked for the past eighty years to enhance the rights of and services for individuals with disabilities and their families

CP State strongly supports S.4042-A (Harckham)/A.6219-A (Burdick) – the “Traveling with Dignity Act” – which amends the civil rights law to define adult changing accommodations and to establish guidelines for the installation of adult changing accommodations in public spaces which would allow people with disabilities, individuals who use wheelchairs, veterans, and seniors to travel with dignity and know that there are rest stops and public spaces that accommodate their needs. **CP State strongly supports S.4042-A (Harckham)/A.6219-A (Burdick) and urges that it be enacted into law.**

The *Traveling with Dignity Act* would require the installation of height-adjustable adult changing accommodations in very large commercial and public spaces throughout New York State. The bill requires all “commercial places of public amusement....with a maximum occupancy of 2,500 or more” with single occupancy bathrooms and state-owned buildings that are open to the public, to have at least one single-occupancy bathroom in the building with an adult changing accommodation. Commercial public spaces have until 2034 and state owned building have until 2030 to install these adult changing accommodations.

S.4042-A (Harckham)/A.6219-A (Burdick) – the *Traveling with Dignity Act* – was informed by advocates and direct support professionals who expressed their dismay that they were unable to travel to Albany to meet with their local legislators because of the lack of adult changing facilities. Changing tables for infants and toddlers are commonplace but adult changing tables are rare. However, adult changing tables are an even more critical resource for adults with

mobility and incontinence issues, allowing them to travel and access the same amenities as everyone else. Without adult changing tables, caregivers may need to resort to changing in spaces that may be unsanitary or unsafe, such as bathroom floors, or avoiding public spaces altogether. Providing height-adjustable is necessary to make this accommodation accessible to people with disabilities who vary in ability, height, and weight while continuing to accommodate infants and toddlers.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public spaces to implement accessibility elements such as ramps, mobility devices, and more. Unfortunately, adult changing accommodations were not included in the Act, making it imperative for New York State to enact legislation ensuring that public buildings are completely accessible to New Yorkers with disabilities.

Requiring adult changing stations to be installed in public spaces will provide adults and older children with mobility issues and incontinence the dignity they deserve, as well as allow them and their caregivers to travel and visit rest stops, movie theaters, museums, convention centers, and much more without worry and with dignity. **For all these reasons, CP State strongly supports S.4042-A (Harckham)/A.6219-A (Burdick) – the “Traveling with Dignity Act” – and urges that it be enacted into law.**