

Baby Changing on Board Act of 2025

Led in the Senate By: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

Introduced in the House By: Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14); Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ-02)

Background:

In Fiscal Year 2024, Amtrak set an all-time ridership record with <u>32.8 million</u> passenger trips and operated routes connecting 46 states, Washington D.C. and two Canadian provinces. These routes are vital to local economies, connecting vibrant small businesses in rural areas to major cities like New York, Chicago, or Vancouver. Traveling by rail also remains an affordable and comfortable mode of travel for many communities, as ridership continues to exceed expectations and Amtrak works to develop more long-duration routes to meet rising demand.

The average duration of a trip on Amtrak's most traveled route, the Northeast Regional, can last between 3.5 and 8 hours, from D.C. to New York and from D.C. to Boston, respectively. Amtrak's longest route, connecting Los Angeles to Chicago, can take passengers 65 hours to travel. Parents and families who are traveling often need to change a newborn child's diaper every two hours, making accessible, safe, and comfortable changing facilities essential.

Legislation:

The Baby Changing on Board Act would ensure that these families have access to the facilities they need to travel comfortably by rail. Specifically, this bill would require all trains owned and operated by Amtrak to have a baby changing station in every accessible restroom, codifying voluntary Amtrak policy. The bill also directs Amtrak to utilize current funding streams to install baby changing stations on new cars until Amtrak can meet a minimum service requirement.

Supporting Organizations:

The *Baby Changing on Board Act* is endorsed by A Better Balance, MomsRising Together, and the National Women's Law Center.