

## **April 9, 2019 Budget Hearing on the Department of Health testimony of Janet Sharp**

Committee Chair Gray, members of the Committee on Health, Department of Health Director Dr. Nesbitt,

My name is Janet Sharp. I am a member of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative.

Everyone would benefit from having clean, safe public restrooms available 24/7.

Persons experiencing housing instabilities would not risk getting a ticket for urinating or defecating outside and save several outcomes: (1) the ticket may be dropped; (2) they may receive up to a \$500 fine; (3) up to 90 days in jail; or (4) up to 90 days in jail and up to a \$500 fine.

Any one taking medications which have a diuretic effect, such as high blood pressure pills, could find a clean, safe place to go and not risk an embarrassing accident.

Seniors, whose bladder capacity has decreased, need to find a place to go when nature calls.

Women who are pregnant or on their menstrual cycle need to go promptly.

Tourists would be encouraged to visit historic places off the Mall if restrooms were located nearby.

Parents with children needing restrooms available would benefit by not having to go to an eating establishing and buy something in order to use their facilities.

Individuals with medical issues or mobility challenges should be able to use restrooms available 24/7 like the rest of us.

For women, holding urine in can result in a Urinary Trak Infection.

Having safe, clean restrooms available 24/7 would mean less poop to scoop in front of businesses and in alleys.

I recommend that this Committee do its part in finding \$336,000 in its FY 2020 markup to finance the first year of the public restroom pilots.

If these funds do not become available it will not be possible to implement Bill 22-0223, Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2019, soon to become law.

Thank you.