****

**Interim Report for Semi-Structured Interviews Investigating the Need to Adjust Current Bed Height and Universal Changing Table Regulations**

**PURPOSE:**

ADA regulations currently contain no technical specifications for accessible hotel guest room beds. Current bed height trends in hotel rooms show the use of thicker box springs and mattresses, resulting in once-accessible rooms failing to meet the needs for people with mobility issues.

According to the July 24, 2018 Accessibility TAC meeting, people who are either non-ambulatory or have self-care issues can’t utilize standard accessible restrooms. A powered height adjustable adult changing table would positively impact qualities of life not only for people with disabilities but also people with colostomies, catheters, and incontinence issues while still providing accessibility for infants and toddlers.

The University of Florida Survey Research Center (the UFSRC) at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research will conduct up to 20 semi-structured telephone interviews for the Florida Building Commission on the topic of Bed Height Regulations and 40 semi-structured telephone interviews on the topic of universal changing tables with households containing individuals with mobility limitations.

**ORGANIZATIONS**

In October 2018, we reached out to several organizations specializing in the differently-abled community to gauge initial willingness to provide access to their member lists to conduct the semi-structured interviews. These organizations include (but are not limited to):

* Shake-a-Leg Miami
* Florida Independent Living Council
* Wounded Warrior Project
* Family Café

**PROGRESS**

At the time of initial contact, a number of organizations indicated they were willing to allow us to speak to their members, but wanted to review the project proposal. In March, we followed up with the organizations to see if they had any questions in preparation for fielding soon. Thus far, Family Café has been enthusiastic in being a part of the project by sending out an e-mail to all their members with UFSRC’s contact information to schedule an appointment time to participate. The other organizations are still reviewing the proposal. The Family Café has thousands of members so we anticipate there being sufficient sample to conduct both surveys based on their response alone, though we will continue to attempt to persuade additional organizations to participate.

UFSRC has submitted the study to the University of Florida Institutional Review Board for approval. The institutional review board ensures the rights and welfare of participants in research studies are being upheld and protected and all research at the university needs to be approved by the IRB before beginning. After the IRB has approved the survey, we will contact the Family Café (and any other organizations that have agreed to share their member list) so we can begin conducting the surveys.

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

* Using a list of suggested organizations the UFSRC will work with Non-Profits and other agencies in the state of Florida to generate sufficient sample to survey eligible respondents.
* Using specially-trained interviewers, the UFSRC will conduct telephone interviews using a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system. These interviewers will be trained in eliciting meaningful responses and stories from respondents.
* Eligible respondents are adult Florida residents that are affected by bed height/universal changing table regulations.
* Survey administration time will not exceed an average of 15 minutes.
* Active sample will be called at various times of the day, rotating calls through daytime, evenings, and weekends as needed.
* Voicemail messages, if necessary, are left every seven days on attempts where an answering machine is reached.
* A toll-free phone number is staffed during regular business hours so that recipients of the answering machine message who respond can have their answers addressed promptly.
* Each week UFSRC will send off anonymized recordings (names cropped out) of the interviews to a reputable transcription service.
* Approximately one month after the end of fieldwork, the UFSRC will deliver a final report including:
  + Transcriptions of the semi-structured qualitative interviews.
  + Summary of respondent themes from interviews

**BED HEIGHT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Q: HELLO**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling from the

University of Florida. (This is not a sales call.)

**Q: ER**

May I please speak with [FIRST NAME ] [LAST NAME]?

**Q: IRB1**

The University is conducting research about issues that are affecting the differently-abled community and we would like to hear your story.

**QUALIFY**

Is there a time the height of a bed in a hotel room was a problem for you? (If no, exit the survey).

**Q: IRB2**

Everything you say will be confidential and will be reported with no identifying information.

There is no compensation for completing the survey, but your answers will help the Florida Building Commission make informed decisions. Your participation is voluntary. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. You do not have to answer any question you do not wish to answer and you can stop the interview at any time. I want you to know this call will be recorded for quality control purposes and will be transcribed, summarized and aggregated with other participants.

This survey should take 10 to 15 minutes.

(If you have questions about the study, you can contact Perry Leibovitz at 352-392-2908. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you can call (the University of Florida) IRB#2 at 352-392-0433. )

**QUALIFY**

When traveling, is there a time that the height of a bed was an accessibility problem for you? (If no, exit the survey).

**Q1**

First, I’d like to ask you to tell us a little about yourself and why the height of a bed is an important issue for you.

**Q2**

How much of a problem for you are the heights of beds when traveling?

Can you give me a specific example?

How did this affect you/make you feel?

**Q3**

How helpful would it be to you if beds in hotels had a lower or adjustable height?

What types of things would you be able to do that you can’t do without a lower height?

Overall, please describe how your quality of life would change if bed heights were lower.

**Q4**

When choosing places to stay, do you consider if certain places will have beds with lower height?

How helpful/accommodating are hotels when you ask about beds with a lower height?

**Q5**

What do you do if you the height of the bed is too tall?

Can you give me a specific example?

How did this affect you/make you feel?

**Q6**

Are there places or events that you are unable to participate in due to the lack of an accessible bed?

Have you delayed or changed plans because you found out a bed was too tall?

**Q7**

If hotels in Florida had more beds with a lower height, what types of people would benefit the most?

**Q8**

When traveling, how often do you encounter a bed height accessible to you?

Do you think this is adequate?

**UNIVERSAL CHANGING TABLE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Q: HELLO**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling from the

University of Florida. (This is not a sales call.)

**Q: ER**

May I please speak with [FIRST NAME ] [LAST NAME]?

**Q: IRB1**

The University is conducting research about issues that are affecting the differently-abled community and we would like to hear your story.

**QUALIFY**

Is there a time that an adult changing table would have been helpful to you? (If no, exit the survey).

**Q: IRB2**

Everything you say will be confidential and will be reported with no identifying information.

There is no compensation for completing the survey, but your answers will help the Florida Building Commission make informed decisions. Your participation is voluntary. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. You do not have to answer any question you do not wish to answer and you can stop the interview at any time. I want you to know this call will be recorded for quality control purposes and will be transcribed, summarized and aggregated with other participants.

This survey should take 10 to 15 minutes.

(If you have questions about the study, you can contact Perry Leibovitz at 352-392-2908. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you can call (the University of Florida) IRB#2 at 352-392-0433. )

**QUALIFY**

Is there a time that an adult changing table would have been helpful to you? (If no, exit the survey).

**Q1**

First, I’d like to ask you to tell us a little about yourself and why the lack of adult changing tables is an important issue for you.

**Q2**

How much of a problem is not having a adjustable adult changing table when you are participating in society?

Can you give me a specific example?

How did this affect you/make you feel?

**Q3**

How helpful would it be to you if public places had adjustable adult changing tables available to use?

What types of things would you be able to do?

How would your quality of life change if universal changing tables were more prevalent?

**Q4**

When choosing things to do or places to go, do you consider if certain places will have changing tables for adults?

What things/places in particular?

How helpful/accommodating when you ask about universal changing tables?

**Q5**

What do you do if you have no access to a changing table?

Can you give me a specific example?

How did this affect you/make you feel?

**Q6**

Are there places or events that you are unable to participate in due to the lack of accessibility to an adult changing table?

Have you delayed or changed plans because there was no adult changing table?

**Q7**

If more adult changing tables were installed in Florida, what types of people would benefit the most?

**Q8**

When you’re participating in society, how often do you encounter an adult changing table accessible to you?

Do you think this is adequate?

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Perry Leibovitz

Project Manager

University of Florida Survey Research Center

perry86@ufl.edu

352.392.2908 x102