



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1244		DATE: 3/31/2025	
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 11:57 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am in Support of this Bill. I thought that this issue was already covered by both the Federal & State A.D.A. Laws.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKI UCCELLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEADER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63303
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 8:00 PM
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We support the inclusivity of this bill. Recognizing and celebrating all abilities makes Missouri a better state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELISE MOORE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: elise.olivia@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 6:53 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: IZZI UCCELLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 10:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to support this bill. Playgrounds and areas should be accessible to ALL Missourians, regardless of their ability. Specifying that all new playgrounds be constructed to ADA standards is a great start.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 10:49 PM

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/27/2025 3:05 PM
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This is long overdue, and I heartily support it.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACEY BLOCH		PHONE NUMBER: 865-230-0177	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1205 ELLA CT			
CITY: ROLLA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL: tracey@moempower.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 8:27 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Tracey Bloch and I am the executive director of Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation. MoDE Foundation seeks to empower students with disabilities and their caregivers through educational advocacy and by promoting inclusivity in schools. This bill is very important to MoDE Foundation and the families that we serve. Students with disabilities are a marginalized group that are often ignored when it comes to standard things like recess and playground opportunities. The science available today that insists on the importance of play for proper development in physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth can no longer be ignored. It is time to call on our state tax dollars that are allocated to building playgrounds to be mandated to be usable for ALL children. Accessibility on the playground extends far beyond wheelchair access. Did you know that kids with cochlear implants cannot go down a traditional plastic slide because the static electricity will require them to go to the doctor to have their device reset? They require a metal slide or a roly slide. Did you know that a child who has suffered a stroke or has a limb difference cannot climb the climbing wall to get to the slide? I have 2 city parks in my zip code where the only access to the slide is a climbing wall or complex ladder that requires the use of all 4 limbs. There are so many unique and creative alternative playground equipment that could be substituted in a playground that enhances the experience for ALL children, but makes it possible for a child with a disability to participate. Why are we not using them?! This bill mentions that any new playground constructed by the state would be subject to accessibility standards. That language might mean it includes schools, but I'd like to see it directly state that schools will be subjected to this standard as well just to be sure that an alternatively funded school playground wouldn't be using a loophole in the law to get out of building an accessible playground. Unfortunately, I have clients who have been told that there isn't money for an accessible playground for just one student in their school district. I've had friends who eagerly awaited the brand new playground down the street only to find out on opening day that their child couldn't do a single thing at the playground. I've had an advocate reach out to me with a picture of the sidewalk to the playground being blocked by a mound of dirt dropped by the dumptruck for landscaping and the child's walker couldn't go on the grass to even get into the play area. These are issues that go unnoticed by most everyone and it has to stop. By not requiring state funds to be used for accessible play opportunities when building playgrounds, our tax dollars are being used to exclude an entire group within our population. We have to do better. We CAN do better. We just need to make sure that it's required, because otherwise it isn't going to happen.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WHITNEY MINOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: whitneysbooknook@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 10:21 PM
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As a parent of a child with disabilities, having accessible surfaces is a necessity. It makes it easier to push strollers/wheelchairs, use gait trainers, and is easier for when people are running and crawling around the park. I do wish all parks could be inclusive, but this bill is definitely a step in the right direction.