



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2342</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-440-9000</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1535</b>			
CITY: <b>O'FALLON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63366</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BECKI UCCELLO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 4:42 PM</b>

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

My name is Becki Uccello, and I'm the proud mom of Izzi. We are from Springfield, Missouri. Izzi was born with spina bifida, which is why she uses a wheelchair for mobility. She lights up our lives every day with her positivity and independence. There are challenges we face that many families might not think twice about. One of those challenges has been finding a safe, welcoming place where Izzi can play like other kids. That's why I'm here to ask you to support House Bill 2342—it's a game-changer for families like mine.

As a mom, I want nothing more than to see Izzi enjoy the simple joys of childhood, like swinging at the park or exploring a playground with her friends. But too often, we get to a playground and realize it's not built for her. The surfaces are too hard for her wheelchair to navigate, or there's no ramp to get her onto the equipment. In fact, her neighborhood public school playground was inaccessible; she had to sit on the sidewalk and watch her classmates play at recess.

House Bill 2342 would change that. By requiring all new playgrounds built by the state or local governments to meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, this bill ensures kids like Izzi won't be left out. It's about more than just ramps or surfaces—it's about dignity, inclusion, and giving every child the chance to be part of the fun. I've seen how Izzi's face lights up when she gets to play on an accessible playground. It's not just playtime; it's a moment where she feels like she belongs. I know budgets are tight, and I'm not asking for the world—just a little planning so that when new playgrounds are built, they're built right from the start. This bill doesn't demand retrofits of every park; it simply sets a standard moving forward. It's a practical step that says to families like mine, "You matter, and your kids matter too."

Please, pass House Bill 2342. For Izzi, for all the kids with disabilities in Missouri, for parents and grandparents with disabilities who want to enjoy the playground with their kids, and for the moms and dads who want to see their children thrive, not just survive.

Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARLES AND MILDRED CHANEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2026 12:57 PM</b>	
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**We need accessible and quality playgrounds.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>COURTNEY LEADER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 4:34 PM</b>	

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,  
 My name is Courtney Leader, I live in Ash Grove, Missouri, and I am writing in strong support of HB 2342, sponsored by Representative Proudie, co sponsored by Representative Gragg, and HB 3534, sponsored by Representative Jones. These bills represent an important step toward ensuring Missouri’s public spaces are accessible and inclusive for all children and families.  
 I am the parent of a nine-year-old daughter, Cyrina, who is a wheelchair user. Like many children, she loves playgrounds because they are where friendships grow, imagination thrives, and independence begins to take shape. Unfortunately, most playgrounds are not designed with children like her in mind. Too often, Cyrina is forced to remain on the sidelines while her peers run and play. When she is invited to participate, an adult must physically push her wheelchair “off road” across woodchips or uneven rubber strips just to reach play equipment. These surfaces make independent mobility nearly impossible. What should be a space for free play instead becomes a reminder of barriers.  
 If playground surfaces complied with ADA Accessible Surface Standards, Cyrina could move with independence, spend meaningful time with friends, and safely play while adults supervise from a distance; just as parents do for other children her age. Accessibility would allow her to build confidence, practice decision-making with her peers, and develop the social independence that playgrounds naturally foster.  
 This is not simply about recreation; it is about inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity for childhood experiences. Accessible playgrounds benefit entire communities ( including caregivers, grandparents, and children with temporary or invisible disabilities) while teaching all children the value of inclusion through shared play.  
 HB 2342 and HB 3534 ensure that when state or public funds are used to build new playgrounds, accessibility is included from the start rather than treated as an afterthought. This approach is fiscally responsible and aligns with Missouri’s commitment to creating communities where every family belongs.  
 Missouri families should not have to choose between participation and exclusion in public spaces funded for everyone. These bills help ensure that children like Cyrina are not watching childhood happen from the sidelines but are fully included in it.  
 I respectfully urge the committee to vote “Do Pass” on HB 2342 and HB 3534.  
 Thank you for your time and consideration.  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Courtney Leader  
 Ash Grove, Missouri  
 Parent and Advocate



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-600-6018</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP</b>		TITLE: <b>PAL TEAM LEAD</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 1352</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. CHARLES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63302</b>
EMAIL: <b>dlb@missouriequity.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 11:54 PM</b>	

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**The Missouri Equity Education Partnership supports playgrounds for all abilities and are excited to support this bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>IVORY SHIKLES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 9:03 AM</b>	
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**This is important for all children to have accessible resources.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>IZABELLA UCCELLO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 4:45 PM</b>	
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Members of the committee,

My name is Izzi Uccello, and I'm from Springfield, Missouri. Today I'm going to talk with you about House Bill 2342. When I was in 3rd grade, I talked with one of my friends about fixing our playground to make it more accessible. At that time, my wheelchair wasn't able to fit on the ramp, so I couldn't access the playground with my friends. I've been to other playgrounds where it's very hard to move around. Wood chips don't work well with wheelchairs, at all. It's very hard for me to move around in gravel too. I need help pushing through the gravel.

House Bill 2342 will make it so that kids like me can play with friends on a playground with an accessible surface.

Since I played Miracle League Baseball, I know how easy it is to move around where there is turf or rubber mats. It makes a difference in a wheelchair.

Accessible playgrounds are important to me because I like to play with my friends. I like to hang out with them and talk, even if we're not playing on the equipment.

Thank you for considering support for House Bill 2342. I am happy to answer your questions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JANET WELCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 9:24 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOSHUA WILCUTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 7:46 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIA CHANEY FAUGHN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2026 12:53 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHERINE GREEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 12:42 PM</b>
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I live in Boonville Missouri and there are plenty of families who need access to a accessibility playground. Children should always be included on playing no matter what the disability is. My friend Kristen O'BRIEN adopted a young boy who is in a wheelchair and is amazing. He is 5 years old and desires a accessible playground wherever he goes. We need more of those in Missouri. Please consider more accessible playgrounds for those beautiful kiddos who need it.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KRISTIN ROSS O'BRIEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 10:18 AM</b>	
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**Playground Bill Testimony – March 10, 2026**

**Children & Families House Committee – 8:00 AM, Room 6**

**Good morning. My name is Kristin O'Brien, and I'm here today as a mom and board member of the Cooper County Board of Sheltered Services. My son Bash is here with me today. He's a kindergartener and he's a disability rights advocate. We both support the accessible playground bill.**

**My son is often on the sidelines while his friends and siblings play at public playgrounds. As a parent of a child with disabilities, I live with the reality that there are many barriers in his life that I will never be able to take away. That is a hard truth for any parent.**

**But this is one barrier we can remove.**

**My son loves to swing more than anything. But if a playground doesn't have an accessible swing seat, I have to try to hold him on my lap while I swing. He is getting bigger now, and he is wiggly. It isn't safe for either of us, but many times it is the only option available if he wants to swing like all the other kids.**

**Wood chips also create barriers. They do not work for people with mobility challenges or using mobility devices. Wheelchairs and walkers sink into them, making it impossible to move safely or independently. When playgrounds use wood or rubber chips, many children with disabilities cannot even get onto the playground, let alone use the equipment. The barrier starts before the play even begins.**

**Anyone who has ever loved a child knows it's wrong when a playground structure is built without access ramps for children to be able to get onto the structure. Children like Bash are left out of one of the most basic parts of childhood -the chance to play with friends. My son's wheelchair is not what prevents him from accessing playgrounds, the playground being built wrong is what prevents him from accessing it. It is painful to watch him sit on the sidelines watching his friends play.**

**Play is how children build friendships, confidence, and a sense of belonging. When playgrounds are inaccessible, children with disabilities are not just excluded from equipment, they are excluded from life with their peers.**

**Federal law requires accessibility, many playgrounds technically meet minimum ADA requirements but are still not truly usable for people with disabilities. If public playgrounds are built or updated using taxpayer dollars, they should be accessible to all members of the public. Taxpayer-funded spaces should serve every family in the community, including those with disabilities.**

**Parents and grandparents with disabilities also deserve to be able to interact with their children and grandchildren at playgrounds.**

**I would also like to address a concern that sometimes comes up regarding the cost of accessible playground surfaces. Missouri already has programs in place that help communities pay for these improvements. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources offers the Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant, which can provide up to \$75,000 for projects that install rubber playground surfacing. Because**

these grants use recycled Missouri scrap tires, they not only support accessibility, they also support recycling and environmental sustainability in our state.

Programs like this show that Missouri already recognizes the importance of accessible recreation spaces and is helping communities afford them. HB 2342 simply ensures that when playgrounds are built, accessibility is considered from the beginning. Building accessibility into new projects costs far less than trying to retrofit them later.

A playground that excludes people with disabilities isn't just inaccessible — it's incomplete. I respectfully ask you to support HB 2342 and help build a future in Missouri where no child is left on the sidelines.

I will remind you once again, my son Bash loves playgrounds. He just needs to be able to actually get on one.

Thank you for your time.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LARA WAKEFIELD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2026 12:14 PM</b>
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**My name is Dr. Lara Wakefield and I'm a private practice, non-attorney advocate who assists parents of children with disabilities access resourcea to understand students' rights to free appropriate public education.**

**Students with disabilities have the same rights to access playgrounds as their non-disabled peers. No child should be sidelined and forgotten while everyone else is playing and having full access to every kid's favorite part of the school day: recess.**

**I'm in support of this bill.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDSEY MURPHY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 8:47 AM</b>

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Play is not a luxury; it is a fundamental building block of child development. When we build playgrounds that are inaccessible, we aren't just excluding wheelchairs, we are excluding families. HB 3534 ensures that every new public playground in Missouri is a place where every child, regardless of physical or cognitive ability, has the "right to play."

**Why This Matters for Missouri:**

- **Social Integration, Not Isolation:** Inclusive playgrounds allow children with disabilities to play alongside their peers. This fosters empathy in able-bodied children and reduces social isolation for those with disabilities, teaching Missouri's next generation the value of a community that leaves no one behind.
- **Support for All Generations:** Accessibility isn't just for children. It allows parents with disabilities or aging grandparents with mobility aids to actively engage with their children and grandchildren, keeping Missouri families connected and active.
- **Economic & Community Value:** Accessible parks become "destination playgrounds." They attract families from neighboring areas, boost local commerce, and demonstrate that Missouri is a forward-thinking, welcoming state for families of all types.
- **Compliance with Dignity:** By codifying the 2010 ADA Standards for new builds, we move beyond "minimum compliance" and toward true "universal design," ensuring that taxpayer-funded spaces are usable by 100% of the public.

We urge you to support HB 3534. Let's ensure that in the Great Mid-West, "every child plays" is not just a slogan, but a reality built into the very foundation of our communities.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA CARUTHERS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2026 6:58 PM</b>
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I work as a Nurse for a company that cares for children with disabilities. I go to school and social events with my client. Many times I've gone to a playground and watched able bodied children play on merry go rounds, teeter totters and swings while my client had to sit by the wayside. He very much loves socializing and swinging and spinning but the inability for him to access most current playground equipment is sad to watch. I have been to one playground with him that was actually accessible to everyone. He was able to enjoy being wheeled in his wheelchair onto a merry go round and being able to sit in an actual seat and teeter totter with other friends. The look on his face was pure joy and his laugh is always contagious! It would be an amazing achievement if you would pass this bill so all playgrounds could be accessible to all children and adults so they can experience the fun and joy together of just playing and not be worrying about any divisiveness. Allow all children to play together!  
Thank you!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICAH WASHAM BAUER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 8:06 AM</b>	
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**I am voting as a voice for the kids.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBYN T SCHELP</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-441-3260</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>KIDS WIN MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3909 SHERMAN CT</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 8:02 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAMANTHA FOSTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 9:03 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Boonville and the surrounding areas have many families that would benefit from inclusive public play spaces. Too many differently abled children are excluded from outdoor play at our parks, I support building accessible playgrounds for them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2342</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEFANI KETELSEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/7/2026 9:51 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am in full support of these bills to ensure accessible and inclusive playgrounds for all children. As an early childhood educator, I see every day how important play is for children's development. Play supports physical growth, social-emotional skills, and early academic learning.

All children deserve the opportunity to play, explore, and connect with their peers, regardless of their mobility or abilities. Providing accessible playgrounds ensures that every child can participate fully in this essential part of childhood. Access to inclusive play spaces is vital for children's development, well-being, and sense of belonging.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2342</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TEMBER CRIPE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/10/2026 7:36 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2342</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRACEY BLOCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>865-230-0177</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1205 ELLA CT</b>			
CITY: <b>ROLLA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65401</b>
EMAIL: <b>tracey@moempower.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2026 11:10 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**My name is Tracey Bloch, I am testifying on behalf of Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation. We seek to empower children with disabilities and their caregivers through educational advocacy.**

**The importance of play is scientifically proven. My nine year old son is learning to write persuasive essays in school. His friend has a broken leg and has had to miss out on recess the past few weeks due to accessibility issues with the playground. This has been an upsetting ordeal for everyone involved, so my son chose to write his essay on the importance of play. He researched how human bodies require movement and that the act of play helps with overall health, brain development, problem solving-skills, emotional regulation, social skills, and more. He was tired of watching his friend struggle with loneliness during recess and wrote his essay to persuade his school to make a better playground. He gets it!**

**A client is raising a child who survived a stroke when he was 4 years old, permanently impacting the use of the left side of his body. He cannot safely access any playground features above knee height at his school because the only way to get to the slide is a ladder that requires two functioning arms to navigate safely. Even when a new playground was being built in his neighborhood, he waited eagerly to see if he could finally have a playground to use, only to find out that it was a similar design to the one at school and he couldn't use it at all.**

**Children with cochlear implants cannot use plastic slides because the static electricity poses a threat to the device.**

**Children with a history of elopement require fenced in areas, as many playgrounds are built near busy parking lots or roads.**

**Play is a critical part of development and there's an entire group of individuals who are fully excluded from the right to these developmental (and fun) opportunities. If public dollars are being spent on public play spaces, they need to be accessible to every individual of the public. Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation asks the Committee to support this bill.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2342</b>		DATE: <b>3/10/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Children and Families</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/9/2026 9:28 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**HB 2342 requires playground areas constructed by the state or any political subdivision to comply with the federal 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.**

**Public entities are already required to comply with these accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the regulations issued by the United States Department of Justice. Because those federal requirements already govern the design and accessibility of publicly constructed playground facilities, the operative provisions of HB 2342 largely duplicate obligations that are already binding on state and local governments.**

**While the goal of ensuring accessible playground facilities is widely supported, the General Assembly should consider whether duplicating existing federal mandates in state statute provides meaningful policy benefit or simply adds redundant language to the Missouri Revised Statutes.**

**If the legislature intends to improve accessibility outcomes for children with disabilities, it may be more effective to focus on implementation support, funding assistance, or compliance guidance for local governments rather than restating requirements that already apply under federal law.**