



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3534		DATE: 3/10/2026	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: COURTNEY LEADER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 4:34 PM
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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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE: PAL TEAM LEAD	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 11:54 PM	

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



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANET WELCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 9:24 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIA CHANEY FAUGHN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 12:53 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE GREEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:42 PM
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I know a family in my town Kristen O'BRIEN who had a beautiful handsome young man age 5 and in a wheelchair. He deserves to have playgrounds like other children in wheelchairs to have fun. They need to have a childhood has well and be included. If we say we are Americans the land of the free then why cant we have a playground for all children including Bash and others with disabilities.



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



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA CARUTHERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/8/2026 6:58 PM
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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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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICAH WASHAM BAUER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 8:06 AM
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I am voting as a voice for the kids.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN T SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 8:02 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEFANI KETELSEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/7/2026 9:51 PM
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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.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TEMBER CRIPE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 7:36 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 9:24 PM	

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HB 3534 requires that playground areas constructed by the state or any political subdivision comply with the federal 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Public entities are already legally obligated to comply with these federal accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations. Because federal law already governs the design and accessibility requirements of publicly constructed facilities, the practical legal effect of HB 3534 is largely duplicative.

While the goal of ensuring accessible playground facilities is important and widely supported, the General Assembly should consider whether codifying federal compliance requirements that are already binding law adds meaningful clarity or instead contributes to statutory redundancy.

If the legislature seeks to improve accessibility outcomes, it may be more effective to address funding, implementation guidance, or compliance assistance for local governments rather than duplicating existing federal obligations.