



Position: Support SB 541

February 16, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee and Chair Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

On behalf of KaBoom, the national nonprofit dedicated to ending playspace inequity, I support SB 541 and commend Senator Elfreth for her leadership with the State Park's Commission. As we see in our work everyday, playspaces and parks are essential to the health and well-being of kids and communities.

As the national nonprofit focused on ending playspace inequity, KABOOM! encourages all of our partners to consider how they can best make equitable investments in public parks and greenspaces. It is important to address barriers to access, such as transportation, distance, and cost, that have prevented many Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and low-income communities from having meaningful access to recreation and leisure spaces. Additionally, cultural barriers that have prevented BIPOC residents from feeling a sense of belonging in these spaces must be addressed through community outreach, participatory planning/design, and culturally responsive programming--among other solutions.

SB541 is a starting-point for facilitating these conversations and investments so we respectfully urge a favor report on SB 541 and look forward to working with Senator Elfreth and the Committee as you work to ensure Maryland's parks are resourced with a lens of equity.

Thank you,

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Spaces to play.
Sparks for Change.