



February 28, 2022

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of SB 522 / HB 788 W/Amendment(s): State and Local Parks – Improved Safety and Access

Members of the Maryland Senate’s Education, Health and Environment Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support establishing a program to improve state park safety within SB 522.

The value of being outdoors is in some ways immeasurable. It’s good for one’s mental and physical being to get back and reconnect with nature. Especially during the past couple of years during Covid 19 shutdowns and quarantine periods. But this concept applies to both able bodied, and disabled citizens all across Maryland.

With the aging infrastructure in many of our local and state park systems, accessibility to some park resources, facilities, playgrounds and pathways has become an issue for some in our network of families. We hope that the MGA bakes into this bill’s recipe of improvements, some access and safety updates within a park improvement program that will also help improve access for All Maryland families, including individuals with disabilities.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 522. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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