

Feb 28, 2022

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members

My name is Barb Dahn and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

Accessible playgrounds are not just for disabled children. They are for the grandparents, vets, injured or whomever are watching kids play and have fun. Ever thought of a paraplegic trying to get thru sand or mulch? Grandma or grandpa with a walker or cane? This list goes on. More inclusion in life is needed all around.

Sincerely,

Barb Dahn  
Shakopee, MN

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Zaidee Martin and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

My kids are much older now, but years ago we had to stop going to playgrounds because there were none enclosed by a fence that we could access. Too many times My 2-3 year old would wander off and only be found as he came back. I couldn't keep an eye on both kids or talk to parents so we just stopped going. It was isolating and lonely and hard for the kid that really needed big motor play.

Sincerely,

Zaidee Martin  
Minneapolis

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

All inclusive playgrounds are important to me because my son is developmentally delayed. He doesn't understand the same fears as other children do. Running into traffic or running towards a body of water, he doesn't see the danger. It presents even the most attentive parents with challenges.

Look, for instance, at the all inclusive park in Edina. It's wonderful, has a lot to offer for kids, but it's not fenced completely in. That poor, sweet little child that happened to wander away from an always busy playground, walk through a busy parking lot and made it to the body of water nearby. I won't bring my son there anymore because this was one of my fears for him even before this happened to this sweet child. If the playground had been completely fenced in, it could have stopped, or at least slowed down this sweet child, so this tragedy wouldn't have happened.

Having wheelchair accessible playground equipment, ramps, sensory toys such as spinning, wall mounted, gears, rain maker mazes, musical instruments, things for little minds to explore and learn.

Having the playground equipment (including bridges) have a rubberized surface so those little ones with balance issues can feel safe and secure while walking on an already scary surface is a must!

Making playgrounds truly ALL inclusive brings kids of many abilities together, to play, to learn from each other and to bring understanding, acceptance and kindness to our future. All children are the future and we should include all kids when thinking about our future playgrounds.

Signed,

Anonymous  
Richfield, MN

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Amy Gaalswyk and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

Fenced in playgrounds are MUCH safer for autistic children who wander or who are attracted to water or cars. When my son was a toddler, before we even knew he was autistic, it was difficult for me to bring him to our local park because he would frequently run away from the playground (he was more interested in the nearby cars). Having a fenced area would decrease stress for parents and increase safety for kids.

Amy Gaalswyk  
Minneapolis

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Joel Kreisel and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

Accessible playgrounds are about so much more than ramps! Children with developmental disabilities desperately need more \*fully fenced\* parks and playgrounds. The only way many of these kids can actually be safe playing outside is in an environment where their caregivers can be sure that their kids won't end up in the street or a parking lot if they lose sight of their child for a moment.

Joel Kreisel  
Hopkins

Feb 28, 2022

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Erin Clotfelder and I live in district 60A. I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

My children are autistic, and very early on, we found that playgrounds were not our friends. We needed spaces that were entirely enclosed, with fences and gates, to safely contain them. Unless both my husband and I were able to go, parks and playgrounds were out of the question.

All families should be able to enjoy a trip to the park without worrying that they will have to choose which of their children to chase down- the one headed for the pond, or the one headed to the parking lot? Accessibility can mean many things, and to some families, accessibility is a fence with a gate.

Thank you,  
Erin Clotfelder  
Minneapolis

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Suzan Cox and I am writing to you in support of legislation to fund inclusive and accessible playgrounds.

Many playgrounds are partially fenced but have open gaps. All toddlers and many older kids without disabilities will make a run for it, but especially disabled children are at risk for this. Gated playgrounds are inclusive for all parents and all children. Disabled children who make a run for it, and typically developing children whose parents may be disabled and unable to chase them. And just tired parents!

Suzan Cox  
St Anthony Village

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

My son was an eloper and he could run fast and climb out of structures starting at 7 months old. By three he was faster than I was and he'd just get it in his head to go somewhere and take off. He had no fear. I tried taking him to playgrounds by myself so he could burn off energy, but he would run and no one would help me capture him.

I have disabilities myself, so I could not run after him. I just had to hope someone would catch him as we passed and I yelled, "please grab him" or I'd have to wait for him to decide to come back and hope he didn't run out into the street. Even when he went with his dad with no physical disabilities, it was difficult to keep him from running off and getting into roadways or ponds/lakes.

It was so stressful, that we'd have to go with a leash on (which doesn't really let him climb the big structures or play) or we'd have to go with another person who was capable of running after him (which was rare) or we'd have to go to a playground that was inside and contained within doors and pay fees to let him play (and he missed out on the outdoors).

Additionally, due to my own physical disabilities, I couldn't play with him unless we happened to be at a playground that was more inclusive and allowed me to walk up ramp ways. In California, I was able to go to a playground that was fenced in and it was awesome. That was truly inclusive for people like my son.

Sincerely,  
Anonymous



Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Rebeka McRad and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

My autistic son enjoys playing with other children and I want to give him that opportunity. But sometimes I can't take him to play because there is no fence between the playground and a busy street or a pond. He knows how to play with other children but he doesn't yet understand the dangers of drowning or cars. For future improvement to parks, we would appreciate consideration of these types of safety concerns.

Rebeka McRad  
Bloomington

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Del and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

The inclusive and accessible playgrounds are important to me because growing up I could only use the slides at playgrounds because of a limp, autism and also a seizure disorder. I dream of swinging for the first time but because of the seizure disorder I haven't been able to.

Sincerely,

Del

Dakota County

Zip Code 55123

Feb 28, 2022

**SUBJECT: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members,

My name is Sarah Mueller and I am writing to you to support legislation for accessible and inclusive playgrounds.

My child is attracted to busy streets, bodies of water and wide, open spaces. He likes to elope (run away) and has no concept of danger. As he gets older and bigger and stronger, catching and wrangling him is so difficult. Having a fenced in space (with still open space to run) would be so helpful.

Sarah Mueller  
Richfield, MN  
Zip Code 55417

Mar 1, 2022

**Subject: HF 3348**

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members,

My name is Maren Christenson Hofer and I am a parent of an autistic child. I am writing to you in support of HF 3348 which will provide funding for an accessible and inclusive playground in Apple Valley.

Even though I am a resident of Minneapolis, the issue of accessible and inclusive playgrounds is very important to me as parents of children with disabilities will often travel many miles to find a safe place for their children to play.

My own son is autistic, and when he was younger we would often go out of our way to find a playground with fencing in a secured location, so that I knew my child would be safe and would not have an opportunity to run out into traffic if he became overwhelmed.

Playgrounds must be designed and built to be accessible for ALL children, including those with developmental and intellectual disabilities as well as physical disabilities. All our kids deserve a safe and welcoming space to play.

Thank you for your support of HF 3348.

Sincerely,

Maren Christenson Hofer  
Parent  
Minneapolis

Mar 1, 2022

SUBJECT: HF 3348

Dear Chairman Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members.

My name is Deeqa Farah and I am the parent of a child with a disability.

Inclusive and accessible playgrounds are what we have been dreaming about. As a young kid, one of the best feelings I had was going to the park with my dad and mom. And just enjoy being a kid.

When I became a parent I wanted that for my child. But my child can not have those experiences because his parents are deathly scared of taking him to a park because of the fear of elopement.

He deserves to enjoy what is left of his childhood doing things like going to the park like other children. Please support this legislation and allow my child that opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deeqa Farah  
Dakota County, MN