



Hon. John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

I am writing to extend my gratitude for all you have done to support the Uvalde community, especially your recent help in securing a Department of Education grant for the school district. KABOOM! is the national nonprofit organization dedicated to ending playspace inequity. Over the last year, we have worked extensively in the City of Uvalde to provide its residents with access to high-quality playgrounds. Playgrounds are one of the few spaces designed specifically for kids, and playing, especially outdoors, is an essential tool for their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. We are committed to creating spaces for kids in Uvalde who are in need of normalcy, restored childhoods, and joy.

Since we began our work shortly after the shooting, we have built three playgrounds, one each at DeLeon Park, Uvalde C.I.S.D. Dual Language Academy, and Esperanza Park. Over the next two years, we intend to build at least seven more. These projects have been privately funded, with contributions coming from the Archewell Foundation, Bank of America, The CarMax Foundation, The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill County, the San Antonio Area Foundation, the San Antonio Spurs, and the Sport for Healing Fund.

Your office's work to secure a \$1.5 million Department of Education Project SERV grant will significantly improve the quality of educational services Uvalde's children receive. This public funding will help foster a safer learning environment and give every student in Uvalde the sense of security and belonging they need to succeed in school. Ensuring that every student feels safe and welcome on our playgrounds is also a high priority for KABOOM! which is why the kids who use the playground help design it and community volunteers help build it. That level of community participation creates a sense of pride and ownership over the playgrounds they helped design and install.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief your office more fully on the work we are doing in Uvalde and other parts of Texas. Thank you again for the support you have shown this community that has become such an integral part of the KABOOM! family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lysa".

Lysa Ratliff  
CEO