



February 20, 2026

Mr. Sam Hatcher, Esq.
Executive Counsel to the Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Hatcher,

I am writing in support of SB 148, Sen. Hatchett's bill, hoping Governor Kemp will sign it into law. I represent KABOOM!, a national nonprofit whose mission is to end playground access disparities by building safe, engaging, and high-quality outdoor recreation infrastructure in communities across America. Over the course of our 30-year history we have built, renovated, or installed play equipment and playspaces in over 11,000 locations. We have a long history of working in the state of Georgia, having built dozens of new playgrounds in a variety of communities and schools over the last 10-years. This work has largely been supported by the state's business and philanthropic community, including Delta, The Home Depot, the Atlanta Falcons, and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation whose generosity has helped ensure every child in the state has access to the kind of outdoor spaces that encourage physical activity, an appreciation for nature and the outdoors, and promotes healthy interactions with their peers.

While there are several provisions of the bill which KABOOM! feels would improve student learning, safety, and teacher benefits—and therefore supports—section 2 is of particular interest. Section 2 of SB 148 establishes a pilot program for outdoor learning spaces. This legislation wisely allows for private and nonprofit funding to be utilized for design and capital costs, a model KABOOM! has successfully piloted, with its partners: Atlanta Public Schools, the Trust for Public Land, Children & Nature Network, and the Environmental Education Alliance, through the Atlanta Community Schools Parks Initiative (ACSPI). By signing this bill, you will allow the Department of Education to codify best practices that reduce student stress and improve academic performance, ensuring these benefits can be scaled across Georgia. Over the last three years the ACSPI has helped create and expand access to outdoor learning and recreation spaces for public school students across the district and can serve as a proof-of-concept for the Department's work. One example of this work is the Brack and Michelle Obama Academy schoolyard we built several years ago; it incorporates nature design elements, engaging play equipment, and spaces for STEM learning.

ACSPI has successfully leveraged public resources to generate private and philanthropic investment to build new outdoor learning and play infrastructure. The schoolyard parks and playspaces we have helped design and build incorporate a wide array of features that this legislation seeks to have the Department of Education examine more closely. Based on the

evidence we have gathered, which has been supported by a number of other studies and anecdotal evidence, students who have access to nature-based outdoor learning and recreation are less likely to experience the high levels of stress or anxiety their peers at schools without this infrastructure are feeling. That reduced amount of stress helps improve school attendance rates, academic performance, and fosters better physical and mental health outcomes. KABOOM!, and our ACSPI partners, would be pleased to have this work further supported by the Department's findings as well as the opportunity to work with other districts that are selected for a pilot program so that selectees can learn the best practices we have developed over the years working on this initiative. An expansion of outdoor based learning and recreation will significantly improve students' academic, health, and economic outlooks. Therefore, any steps taken to expand access to these innovative school spaces is something that KABOOM! wholeheartedly supports and hopes Governor Kemp will act on expeditiously.

Thank you for considering our input as the Governor makes his determination on whether to sign this critical piece of legislation into law. We would be happy to provide any additional information or evidence your office may need regarding our work on outdoor education and recreation spaces. I also encourage you to visit our website (kaboom.org) and learn more about the work we are doing in Atlanta and watch this [video](#) on our ACSPI work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lysa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "L" being particularly large and stylized.

Lysa Ratliff
CEO