



April 26, 2026

Hon. Nancy DeBoer, Chair
Anderson House Office Building
N-1190 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Support for HB 5794

Dear Chairwoman DeBoer,

KABOOM! is a national nonprofit whose mission is to end playspace inequity in communities throughout the country. Playspace inequity is when children do not have access to safe, engaging, and high-quality playspaces because of geography, race, or economic status. Over the last thirty years we have built over 11,000 different kinds of playspaces, including dozens in the state of Michigan with partners like the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation and the NFL. I am writing today in support of HB 5794, which would establish a right to recess for students in Kindergarten through the fifth grade.

Parents know what their children need. They see firsthand that kids who get time to run around, play freely, and decompress come home ready to engage with family, friends, activities and homework and not burned out. Yet in too many schools, recess has been squeezed out in favor of more time for test preparation or other forms of instruction, removing a tool that parents count on to support their children's well-being. Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics confirms what families already understand: children who have regular recess demonstrate stronger academic performance and healthier physical development. HB 5794 gives parents confidence that this basic need won't be traded away.

This particular bill approaches the issue of recess in a sensible and pragmatic manner. It affords young children a period of recess that will enable them to get the physical activity they need to help them concentrate during the rest of the school day while taking into account the classroom behavioral needs of the teacher and their fellow students. It also allows schools to moderate the amount of time allocated towards recess depending on the length of the school day, thereby ensuring it won't interfere with other types of instructional time.

We believe that Michigan can be a leader in this area and be one of only a dozen states that provides students with a right to recess through legislation. This will place the state at the forefront of a growing national movement and give it a competitive edge in its educational system and ability to attract families who are looking for schools that focus on the holistic needs of their children.

Thank you for considering our request to take up this legislation. If you have any questions about KABOOM!'s work or this issue please contact me and I'd be happy to speak with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Robert Mayer
Director of Policy and Advocacy