



April 3, 2025  
Honorable Josh Becker  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 1268 (Gonzalez) - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Becker:

KABOOM! is proud to support SB 1268, which codifies the goals and programs of the Outdoors for All initiative. This program helps communities achieve equitable access to outdoor recreation for all Californians by prioritizing programs and park expansions in underserved communities and aligning Outdoors for All efforts with the state's existing outdoor equity and conservation goals. Codifying it, and the work it does, will ensure the continuation of these important programs by removing it from executive discretion and firmly placing it within California state law.

KABOOM! is a national nonprofit which works to end playspace inequity for children in every community around the country. Over our 30-year history we have worked extensively in California in places like Oakland, Anaheim, and Los Angeles. This work includes a multi-year partnership between the Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation, the Oakland Unified School District, and ourselves to renovate the schoolyard playspaces to include enhanced safety features, more green space, more interactive play features, better accessibility, and enhanced learning features. We are taking the learnings from this initiative into other districts and municipalities we are working with in the state and around the country to improve the quality of play for children of every background.

California has 280 state park units, in addition to thousands of regional, county and city parks. However, access to outdoor recreation is not equal across different geographic areas of the state, ethnicities, income levels, and other demographic factors. A history of exclusionary zoning, discriminatory policies, and underinvestment has resulted in fewer parks and less outdoor access for many communities. Barriers including limited facilities for people with disabilities, the cost of equipment, transportation, and fees, and racial and ethnic discrimination exacerbate these historical inequalities.

In 2021, California launched the Outdoors for All initiative with an initial investment of over \$1 billion, designed to increase outdoor equity. This initiative spans the 27 departments at the California Natural Resources Agency and includes programs that provide free access to state parks, grants to local communities for park infrastructure and programs, and more.

The current Administration in Washington has withdrawn its support for addressing equitable access to nature and the outdoors while also deploying federal immigration agents to public parks and other kid-centered spaces. It is critical to strengthen the state's commitment to outdoor equity and conservation.

That is why SB 1268 is needed at this critical juncture and KABOOM! strongly urges its passage and adoption.

Sincerely,

**Robert Mayer**  
**Director, Policy and Advocacy**  
**KABOOM!**