



September 16, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Guidance on Reopening of Playgrounds and Sport Amenities

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to ask you to issue additional state guidance for cities and counties on the reopening of outdoor activities for youth, such as playgrounds and sport amenities. Playgrounds and sports in community parks provide a critical resource for children and families to access outdoor space, exercise, and relax.

As a parent yourself, you know how important it is for children to have opportunities to expend their physical energy and play. However, especially in lower-income communities, families may have little to no outdoor space of their own available. Public parks and playgrounds provide a critical shared outdoor resource for families, but the indefinite closure further disadvantages children who have limited other options for outdoor recreation and physical activity.

As we consider guidance on reopening of for-profit businesses like gyms and fitness centers or family entertainment centers, it seems clear that we are neglecting to consider the community resource of playgrounds and public sport amenities in our shared “backyards”. There is little mention of playgrounds in the most updated Guidance Documents from the California Department of Public Health, which indicate playgrounds should be closed, but do not indicate when or under what circumstances it may be safe to reopen them. Guidance for sport amenities in parks is also unclear. Additionally, information from the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on the reopening of various sectors by county tier does not appear to include any reference to under what tier playgrounds or sport amenities in public parks may reopen, leaving cities, counties, and families confused.

Creating additional statewide guidance will ensure that across all counties we appropriately consider best practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, while ensuring the children across the state are not unfairly deprived of their opportunities for outdoor access and play.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



LORENA GONZALEZ
Assemblywoman, 80th District



MARC BERMAN
Assemblymember, 24th District



TASHA BOENER HORVATH
Assemblymember, 76th District



AUTUMN BURKE
Assemblymember, 62nd District



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Senator, 32nd District



ANNA CABALLERO
Senator, 12th District



MAIRA ELENA DURAZO
Senator, 24th District



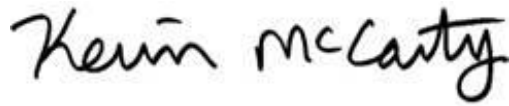
MELISSA MELENDEZ
Senator, 28th District



TOM UMBERG
Senator, 34th District



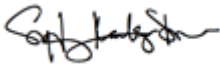
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Assemblymember, 15th District