

Jan. 23, 2007

To whom it may concern:

I am a paralympic athlete who is writing this letter of support for the swing-high project. I am a totally blind individual who works in the field of sports and recreation for persons with physical disabilities. Myself and many of my co-workers support this project.

There is a need for children with physical disabilities to be active and the playground is where it all should begin. As we all know the playground is where we start to develop many of our motor skills, coordination and socialization along with many other life long skills. An accessible playground in the Pikes Peak region would be invaluable and would make a tremendous impact on not only children with a physical disability or sensory impairment but would benefit children who do not have a disability as well. A playground that allows for all children to play and interact would help bring awareness of disability to children and parents. Children are great because they don't see the disability of another child, or they do not think much of it anyway. By having accessible playgrounds then all children will see the child first not their disability and those fears that children so often learn when a parent or provider reacts in a negative way would not be learned.

To have a child be able to interact with their peers is awesome. The joy of swinging or reaching the top of a playground is a feeling that cannot be replaced. Digging in the sand and hiding treasures deep beneath the sand is an opportunity every child should have a chance to do.

I hope that the Pikes Peak region will have an accessible playground for all children to play on soon. With working with children who are Blind and VI as well as other children with various physical disabilities this would be an incredible addition to their everyday life. It would benefit children, parents and the community as a whole. I fully endorse this project and hope to be swinging-high myself very soon.

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