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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to add our agency's support of The Swing High Project, Inc. in their plans to construct a universally accessible playground within Colorado Springs.

As a local organization that provides services to adults who have developmental disabilities so that they can become contributing members of our society, it is our firm belief that the accessible playground project is an essential element for integrating young people into our community. We have found, over the years, that the earlier a child who has disabilities can be afforded an even playing field for social interactions with children who don't have disabilities, the more successful that child will be when he or she attains adulthood. This translates into more refined social skills, a better self-concept, an easier transition into the world of work, and a more productive life overall. It also reduces social isolation for the child. Such isolation not only creates barriers to future success, but sets the stage for emotional problems and shortens a person's life expectancy.

In conclusion, accessible playgrounds are a vital step in the early integration of children, both with and without disabilities, into our culture. This will not only strengthen our society; it is the right thing to do.

Thank you,

Joseph A. Vaccaro
Executive Director
Community Intersections