



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Douglas Baker, Mayor, City of Franklin



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – John J. Jablowski, Jr., MPA, Councilman, Wilkes-Barre Township

Via Email

November 16, 2023

The Honorable Gwendolyn Green
Representative
4B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: House Bill 1443 (PN 1627) – Playground Safety

Dear Representative Green:

On behalf of the members of The Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I am writing to let you know of concerns our members have with House Bill 1443.

Your interest in protecting the safety and well-being of children and ensuring they have safe places to play is commendable. And it should go without saying that no municipal official wants children to be hurt while playing on public playgrounds. From our members' perspective, however, HB 1443 will result in fewer playgrounds to the detriment of not only children, but neighborhoods and communities.

Some of our concerns are:

- The ability of DCED, from an expertise and staff capacity perspective, to manage and enforce this program.
- The potential for stringent regulations that result in an inability to comply.
- The potential for duplicative regulations, safety audits and hazard analyses.
- The short timeline and narrow remedy of removal or replacement of equipment.
- The negative, unintended consequences on children and communities if local governments decide not to build or to close playgrounds because they cannot comply.

Prior to any committee action, we would welcome the opportunity for more discussion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Sturges
Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy
The League and PSATC