



**CONNECTICUT  
RECREATION & PARKS  
ASSOCIATION**

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**Testimony on behalf of  
The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc.  
Before the Committee on Children  
January 27, 2015**

**Raised Bill 208 – An Act Concerning Playground Equipment Safety Standards**

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. (CRPA) is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to provide a network of support to our members through professional development and resources in order to enhance the quality of recreation and parks services in Connecticut. CRPA represents over 600 individual professionals from municipal, nonprofit and private, park, recreation & camp organizations, as well as 125 of the 169 municipal park and recreation departments in Connecticut.

CRPA's members strive to ensure that all public facilities, including parks with playground structures, are maintained to the safest extent possible. CRPA has promoted playground safety for many years and certainly supports the intent of the proposed legislation but cannot take a position until the following aspects are clarified:

- Will existing playground structures be grandfathered and compliance only apply to newly installed playgrounds?
- If not, will municipal and private entities that own and maintain the playground equipment have to bring each structure into compliance with the guidelines?
- Will a reasonable compliance period be clearly outlined?
- Who will cover the cost of either retrofitting the equipment if possible, removing the old equipment & recycling it or disposing of it, and when retrofitting is not possible replacing old structures with new ones?
- Will municipal and private entities that own and maintain the playground equipment be required to bring them up to compliance every time the CPSC guidelines (which also reference ASTM standards) are revised and updated? Even if they were in compliance at the time they were installed?

CRPA commends the committee for their efforts to ensure the safety of all of Connecticut's children but cannot take a position on Senate bill 208 until the above questions have been answered. Our organization stands ready to work with the Children's Committee on this important issue. Playground safety has been a central issue for our association for many years.

Paul Roche, Chairman  
Legislative Committee  
Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association