

Dear Chair Johnson, Steiner- Hayward, and Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Retherford. I live in Toledo and have lived there most of my life. I drowned when I was 2 years old in a puddle of water outside my babysitter's house. My brother stopped a car going by and a gentleman did CPR and saved my life. So the importance for water safety and swim lessons to me is greater because of my experience. All children should be taught water safety. When it rains here there is water everywhere and puddles that children could drown in just like myself when I was 2 years old. Had me and my brother been a part of the school and received swim lessons and water safety. I may have not had that experience in my life. I swim at the pool now and it is wonderful to have a community pool that we can swim at. My children get lessons from the Greater Toledo pool and get to swim at it for exercise. I am grateful that the school provides swim lessons and water safety to all Kindergarten through 3 graders. I want to thank you for considering funding the Greater Toledo Aquatic Community Center in East Lincoln County.