

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

My name is Amy Purdom and I have lived in Toledo most of my life. I am a legal secretary, wife, and mother. I learned to swim at the Toledo Pool over 40 years ago. My husband and children all learned to swim there as well. The Toledo swimming pool is an integral part of our lovely community.

I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. Materials for this request have been submitted by Representative David Gomberg. Improvements to our pool facility are essential. Additional funding is necessary in order to achieve goals. Our community places a high value on this facility, which was no doubt proved in 2017 when we voted to increase property taxes to establish future funding. The funding covers operation and maintenance costs, but the District seeks further funding to improve and expand upon our facility. I can only imagine future, even greater opportunities, which will be available to our community if your additional funding is given. I am so excited to think of the possibilities.

I wholeheartedly support the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. My son and daughter both received 2 years of lessons while in elementary school. These lessons are provided at no cost to all first and second graders at Toledo Elementary School. In addition, my children enthusiastically took advantage of summer swim lessons. My son, Dylan Purdom, absolutely loved every minute in the water. A few seasons, he even joined the swim club to stay in shape. As he grew into his high school years, he got his first job as a lifeguard. What an incredible opportunity that was. The pool was very flexible in working around his busy schedule as a high achieving student, athlete and community volunteer. I am most certain that the confidence and pride he gleaned from his time at the pool helped carry him along his successful path. Through hard work and determination, he was accepted into the United States Air Force Academy where he graduated in 2018 and is now a C-17 pilot for our United States Air Force.

Over the years I have personally found the pool an inviting source exercise, from lap swimming, to group exercise class. On special occasions, my daughter would come along and together we would get our laps in.

The Center is important to me and the community in so many ways.

- Life-saving swim lessons to children. Children are introduced to lessons in school, then often sign up for summer lessons to increase skills. With these lessons, family members are introduced to the facility. Family swim time is an affordable, safe and bonding experience for families of all ages.

- Exercise opportunities for all ages, from lap swimmers to "water walkers" to family swim time. The pool is kept at an inviting temperature so elderly and young alike are more comfortable.

- Improvements made to the facility if funds are received would open the facility to an even greater variety of community members. Creating an environment where healthy habits can be made and promoted would increase the quality of life of so many residents both young and old. Bringing community members together and creating bonds to strengthen our community would vastly improve quality of life for so many more people.

An improved facility would greatly benefit so many people. In a low income area such as ours, providing additional healthy options and opportunities could be life changing. The Center is a good investment of public money. Proposed improvements to our current facility would increase community pride, provide a safe haven of recreation for youth and teens, and offer exercise opportunities for all ages. It is so very important to me and the communities in East Lincoln County. Thank you very much for your time and for considering The Greater Toledo Aquatic & Community Center to receive this funding.