

Dear Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Retherford. I live in Toledo and have lived there most of my life. I am writing in support of the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center project.

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 my brother and I been a part of the school and received swim lessons and water safety instruction, I may have not had that experience in my life.

I swim at the Greater Toledo Pool now and it is wonderful to have a community pool. My children get lessons from the Greater Toledo Pool and get to swim there for exercise and fun. I am grateful that the school provides swim lessons and water safety to all Kindergarten through 3rd Graders.

I want to thank you for considering funding the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center in East Lincoln County.