

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

My name is Amy Rodda and I live in Toledo, Oregon. I am a 911 Dispatcher for the City of Toledo, and I am also a lifeguard with the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

I joined the Greater Toledo Pool to fulfill a goal of becoming a swim instructor. After a tragic drowning incident in our community a few years ago I decided I wanted to be proactive versus reactive and applied to be a lifeguard/swim instructor with The Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. When I was younger my two year old cousin was a drowning victim. It is unknown how long she was in the pool before she was found, but she was left a quadriplegic and had severe brain damage.

According to the CDC:

- From 2005 to 2014 there were 3,536 deaths due to drowning (non-boat related).
- 1 in 5 people who drown are age 14 and under.
- For every child that drowns another 5 receive emergency care for nonfatal submersion injuries.

The Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center is vital to teach our children how to swim. When my family moved to the community 18 years ago I was astonished to find out how many people did not know how to swim. Toledo Elementary School partners with the Greater Toledo Pool to provide swim lessons to children in kindergarten through third grade. For many children this will be their only exposure to swim lessons. Two of my children have benefited from these lessons.

The Greater Toledo Pool is so much more than just a place to learn how to swim. We have multiple seniors that use the facility. For some it is one of the few times they leave their house. We have several people who use it as part of their recovery from surgery or an injury since swimming is a low impact exercise. We have swim club which gives younger children a place to go after school. We also have a high school swim team which two of my children have been on.

Please allocate funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center project so that this very important Center in our rural east Lincoln County community can be renovated. We use it, we need it, and we need your support.

Thank you.

Amy Rodda