

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

My name is Amy Jones and I live in Toledo. I am a mom to six kids, all who love swimming and enjoy visiting the pool. My eldest daughter has also worked as a lifeguard, swim team coach and swimming instructor at the Greater Toledo Pool.

I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. The Greater Toledo Pool has been an amazing benefit and resource in our town and to my family specifically. We have had the benefit of visiting the pool for many impromptu swimming lessons in which my youngest two daughters had a chance to learn and improve on this essential life skill. Collectively, my older children have spent many years on a competitive swim team.

When children swim for either recreation or for sport, they receive many health benefits, including building strength, increasing stamina, improving flexibility, and it keeps a child's heart and lungs healthy. Competitive swimming also offers children a way to be involved with the camaraderie of a team sport, yet work and improve on an individual level as well.

As previously mentioned, my daughter worked as a lifeguard and had the opportunity to collaborate and connect with a wonderful team of colleagues and management staff. Working at the pool was her first job and the lessons and skills she learned will be used for a lifetime.

Thanks to the Toledo Pool, I have four members in my household who have completed lifeguard and First Aid/CPR training! My husband and three of my children took the classes and certification tests which were provided at the pool. My eldest two children also had the opportunity to join the Toledo High School Swim Team which practiced at the pool. Overall, the Toledo Pool has provided so many great benefits to my family and to our community.

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your consideration on improving and expanding this wonderful community resource.

Amy Jones