

Submitter: Kristin Kuenz-Barber  
On Behalf Of: Competitive and school swim teams  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB49

I fully support SB 49 and encourage others to do so as well. As a parent of a child who has been a competitive swimmer for 8 years and a high school swimmer for 2 years, it is incredibly frustrating to continually to have to battle with other organizations and schools simply to gain access to pool time. In the Capitol City of Salem, there is ONE community pool available to ALL 5-6A high school teams and the two 2A private schools in the area. For my child, this year that meant we only had access to that pool 2x a week and they had to be there ready to practice when doors opened at 530 am- that meant getting up at 445 to get ready and make the drive there. Not ideal for a teen with 4 honors classes.

This is the same pool that competitive teams vie for as well- which is one of the main reasons Salem has been unsuccessful in maintaining a competitive team. It's too hard to vie for pool time during HS swim when the organization has the pool open to members and the school district has a standing contract as well.

Swimming is the only "no-cut" sport in High School. This gives youth who might not necessarily be the best fit for more competitive sports that require true skill and athleticism, such as football or baseball. If you can swim, you can be on the team. Our youth deserve the chance to be a part of something bigger. They deserve better, and OSA should be tasked with ensuring each district in our State has a reasonable number of pools available to schools who have kids who want to swim. Thank you for considering passage of this bill.