

Submitter: Diane Scottaline
On Behalf Of: People with developmental disabilities
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Hello. The Arc of Benton County (The Arc) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides advocacy and programs for people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families. We have been on the leading edge of meeting needs since our inception in 1958.

I am writing to testify about the positive impact that the Osborn Aquatic Center has had on people with a variety of disabilities. A long-time staff person of The Arc with extensive experience in supporting people with DD, Julie Hardenburger, has been offering adaptive water aerobics for over 15 years. She has witnessed the following benefits: increased comfort with water, increased strength and mobility, joy in the sensory experience of water pressure and movement, as well as immeasurable benefits of being with peers and getting blood flowing to the brain and other areas of the body.

As a recreational swimmer, I enjoy the refreshment that swimming offers, as well as the aerobic benefits. I meet new people at the pool and enjoy seeing familiar friendly faces, just like our friends with DD.

Since the roof leak and related closure, Julie has had to lead her class on land. This is a sad substitute. However, the continued attendance does attest to the importance of the friendships that have been built among participants and between participants and staff.

An investment of budgetary funds for the long-term solution of a roof repair would be wise. I wholly support designating funds for a permanent solution, so people with DD can enjoy this healthy activity for decades to come.

I am available directly at 541.602.4304.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Diane Scottaline