

Sample Letter to a Legislator

[Date]

The Honorable [full name or representative or Senator]
[address of representative or Senator]

Dear Representative/Senator [last name] :

In 2004, 761 children ages 14 and under died as a result of drowning, making it the second leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 14 in the United States. Clearly, adult supervision at all aquatic venues is a key factor in preventing children from drowning. But the proper installation and use of fencing, as well as additional layers of protection, could also substantially reduce the number of childhood swimming pool drownings and near drownings.

I am writing to express my sincere hope that [fill in the name of your state] will enact pool- and spa-safety laws, in accordance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. As you know, this act established a grant program to provide funding to states that follow pool-safety measures made in accordance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's guidelines: using appropriate pool barriers (covers, self-closing/self-latching gates, door alarms, and pool alarms) and anti-entrapment devices, and educating individuals about pool-safety standards.

I urge you to pass pool- and spa-safety laws to make these venues safer for our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[name]

[address]