

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

My name is Melany Burchett. I have been a member of the Toledo community for over 21 years now. I have volunteered, and been employed at the Toledo Pool for an accumulation of 18 years. I have been an active volunteer on KOPO (Keep Our Pool Open), now Friends of the Greater Toledo Pool Committee. I have used this facility for my own physical rehabilitation, and have first-hand witnessed the numerous others that have made incredible recoveries in their own lives from the programs we have offered.

Over the years I have worn many hats here at the pool, with the most current as the Aquatics Manager. None though more fulfilling than becoming a lesson instructor, and providing lifelong, lifesaving skills to thousands of youth in our community and beyond. We teach lessons year-round here. Our facility has been the only pool out of 3 in Lincoln County to provide a long running successful school swim lesson program, as well as summer lessons. In 2013 we received an Award for Excellence in Aquatics Programming for School Swimming Lessons from ORPA. We had 2500 children in 4 months come through grades K-3 to learn lifelong, lifesaving skills.

Today I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center. Materials for this request have been submitted by Representative David Gomberg. I am extremely moved for the consideration you are giving us and the possibility of continuing our efforts to make a difference in our communities. There are many great needs in our state. Our facility is one that helps continue to keep our struggling community alive. To bring families to our area, give people reasons to stay living here, and ultimately to continue to provide life-long, lifesaving skills to all ages.

It has been my goal and purpose to provide a safe place for all in and around our community, to come play, learn, rehabilitate and socialize. When I found this facility, I found my second home, the heart of this community, a second family and my own mission in life. I discovered a way to give back and a way to make a difference. I truly appreciate your consideration of funding our brighter future. It is crucial and vital to all of our members and to the livability of our East County.

Sincerely, Melany Burchett
Community Member
Aquatics Manager, Greater Toledo Pool