



June 13, 2016

Honorable Kansen Chu  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Chu:

Safe Kids coalitions in California join together in supporting AB470. In California, drowning is the leading cause of death in our youngest children one to four years of age. For every child who dies from drowning, it is estimated that five other children survive a water immersion incident, and too many of these children suffer lifelong brain injuries. It is for these reasons that drowning is among the Ten Top issues identified by the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project.

Safe Kids is a global network of coalitions with the mission of preventing unintentional injury, the number one cause of death of kids 19 and under in the U.S. and California. Safe Kids Worldwide is a grass roots organization of more than four hundred coalitions throughout the U.S., including Safe Kids California and 11 local coalitions. We work on a range of risks confronted by children and the parents seeking to keep them safe. The risks include motor vehicle crashes, sports injuries, home injuries such as window falls and medication poisoning, as well as drowning. Based on research, Safe Kids educates, increases awareness and advocates for smart public policy solutions.

Safe Kids was deeply involved in the passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act, and more recently the effort to make its safety grant program more effective. The measures you propose in AB470 embrace the spirit of the VGB Act. In fact, the bill could be a model for other states to follow.

The bill would do the following:

- Dramatically strengthen the barrier requirements of current California law.
- Significantly increase the number of home pools covered by the law.
- Require a pool door alarm to be audible with a message, "Door to pool is open," instead of only an alarm sound which could be associated with other risks.
- Increase public awareness efforts in the state.

We believe AB470 can have a significant impact on the child death and injury rate in California because of drowning. The bill is an important step we can take to remove drowning as the leading cause of death involving kids one to four years old. We are happy to support you in this effort in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids California, Helen Arbogast  
Safe Kids Los Angeles West, Chantel Ponder  
Safe Kids Central Valley, Kristina Pasma  
Safe Kids Inland Empire, Michelle Parker  
Safe Kids San Diego, Mary Beth Moran  
Safe Kids Orange County, Amy Frias