

May 17, 2020

Dear Senators,

I am a mother of 2 children, Asher (5) and Zara (2), who are both ISR trained by the wonderful Annette Lazenby. My son, Asher, was the first to be ISR trained with Annette in Late Summer 2018. Asher was born with a Congenital Heart defect and required surgery to survive at just 5 days old. As you can imagine, we learned quickly how dangerous it could be for Asher to catch even a mild cold while he recovered from surgery and grew his first year. Even though he is healthy and well now, we have always taken extra precautions to ensure the least amount of risk for illness. After having my daughter and witnessing a family member's child fall into a pool with 7 adults standing around. Not having the skills to swim was no longer an option. Asher, having had many more than normal doctors appointments, cardiology check ups, and nurse home visits, was very anxious around new people and very attached to mom. This made traditional group style lessons in a crowded swimming pool things nightmares are made of. Asher kept saying it was too loud, refused to put his head underwater, and was extremely frustrated when his instructor was changed mid-session. He was petrified and definitely was not any closer to swimming. After one short and very miserable session of group lessons, we found Annette's ISR lessons from her beautiful private pool.

The pool area was clean and well kept, the intimate environment didn't echo sound, and knowing my child was receiving one on one attention with the same instructor each and every lesson eased my anxiety. While Asher wasn't thrilled about his lessons in the beginning by the end of 6 weeks my terrified-of-the-water 3 year old was begging to swim underwater with Miss Annette. This newfound confidence in the water translated into his everyday life and he was conquering little anxieties daily. I don't believe my child would have succeeded with swim lessons had it not been for the ISR lessons at Miss Annette's Pool.

Senators, I would urge you to see the importance of this bill; drowning is the biggest risk for our little ones. And it is estimated that for every child that drowns. Another 4 will suffer permanent brain damage. Asher is in the 1% of children born with a congenital heart defect and if it weren't for incredible doctors and nurses and surgeons who fought to save his life he wouldn't be here today. That is what Annette Lazenby and many other ISR swim teachers are trying to

do for the children of Ohio; they are fighting to teach to save lives. I ask you to pass this Bill SB 309 so that not one more child drowns and becomes part of the drowning statistic.

Thank you for your time,

Megan Sankiewicz