



WARREN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

416 South East Street • Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Duane Stansbury, R.S., M.P.H.
HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Scott R. Swope, D.O.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SB 309 Proponent Testimony
Duane Stansbury, Warren County Health District
Committee
Chairman
May 20, 2020

Chairman Manning, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of SB 309 sponsored by Senator Gavarone. My name is Duane Stansbury, I am the Health Commissioner for Warren County. Warren County Health District works to strengthen the county's public health system to protect our citizens against the disease threats of today, and to promote a vision for the future of healthy people in healthy Ohio communities.

There were 221 drowning deaths in the US in 2019. And Ohio is the 4th deadliest state for pool drownings in 2019 with 14. Drowning is the Number 1 cause of unintentional death among kids aged 1 to 4. (USA Swimming Federation)

Warren County Health District supports SB 309, as it will allow one on one certified swimming instruction to young children in our county and across Ohio without burdensome regulations. Learning to swim is the best way to prevent drownings. And one on one instruction is the best and safest way for children 1 to 4 to learn to swim.

Because of the way current Ohio law is written, if a certified swimming instructor would like to provide direct one on one instruction to a child in their private swimming pool and they charge a fee for that instruction, then they are required to purchase a swimming pool license from their local health district.

However, to issue a swimming pool license, the residential pool must meet all the requirements in Ohio Revised Code 3749, that are designed to protect the health and safety of swimmers when using a pool designed for many people swimming at the same time. Because these pools are used by dozens to hundreds of people at any time, the swimming pool rules require proven standards be met by the operators of these public pools.

A private pool is designed to be used by no more than three families, and typically they are used only by one family and their guests. Therefore, many of the rules for public swimming pools would be overly burdensome for a private pool to meet. But the private pool is designed to be safely used by the home owner and their guests.

SB 309 will allow a homeowner to safely provide certified swimming instruction in their private pool without being required to have the pool licensed by the local health district.

Warren County Health District supports a strong and uniform pool inspection program across Ohio, but we do not need to over burden homeowners with unnecessary regulations when providing one on one swimming instructions. And I believe that SB309 will help us achieve that goal.

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane Stansbury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the last name.

Duane Stansbury

Health Commissioner

Warren County Health District