



**JEAN SCHMIDT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chairman Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and Members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 627 today. This bill aims to clarify the roles of the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture as it relates to inspecting special use pools and aquatic amusement rides.

Currently, there is no clarification in the Ohio Revised Code for aquatic amusement rides. Because of this ambiguity, Ohio has seen disease outbreaks at multiple aquatic amusement parks around the State. This bill seeks to ensure the best possible safety standards are met and that inspections are done by those best qualified and experienced to do so.

Currently, ODH has jurisdiction over water quality in public pools, but not in aquatic amusement rides. ODA inspects both water quality and the mechanical components in these aquatic rides. ODH has the expertise in water quality and, under the bill, ODH will inspect the water quality of the pools that rides empty into to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. ODA will test the mechanical portions of those rides.

Many of these pools are already found in amusement parks where both ODH and ODA already work. This is not creating a new regulation or burden for the parks. Instead, it is shifting these responsibilities.

We want to ensure that Ohioans can safely enjoy aquatic amusement rides and public pools. I believe that House Bill 627 will make that happen.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to any questions you may have.