



**JEAN SCHMIDT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Good afternoon Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health committee. Thank you for hearing HB 178, which would limit the amount of pressure that goes through the water feature at Ohio waterparks.

Visiting Ohio's waterparks is a classic pastime for residents of our state. Last year, a constituent of mine in Clermont County contacted Representative John Becker and told him of a horrific story that ended up badly injuring a seven year old child from Milford, Ohio. While Rep. Becker's legislation was not introduced because of the General Assembly was coming to close, the family contacted me in January to get a status of the bill and we promptly worked on a new draft and then introduced the bill.

MaKenna was seriously injured at an area waterpark when she was standing over the water feature when it activated. Makenna, then seven years old was immediately rushed to Children's Hospital where doctors worked diligently to stop the bleeding. According to her mother, MaKenna bled for over two and a half hours. Emergency exploratory surgery was ordered and a subsequent surgery was ordered that evening at 8:30 p.m.

As it turns out, as Makenna stood over the feature as children often do, the severe force of the water caused a severe laceration in a very private part of MaKenna's young body. The laceration was not superficial, external was untouched. After surgery that lasted several hours, Makenna was admitted with a catheter and packing. This was terribly painful for her and she will never forget this horrific day.

MaKenna's Law seeks to regulate the pressure of water coming from the feature. Under the proposed legislation, the flow rate through a feature nozzle of a water feature, including a fountain or other interactive feature, at a public swimming pool, public spa, or special use pool will be limited to twenty feet per second, unless justified by the design engineer and by the fountain system manufacturer.

This bill is based on existing provisions in the Model Aquatic Health Code published by the US Department of Health and Human Services, as well as existing provisions in the Florida Administrative Code and the Florida building code.

As splashpads continue to be built across our state, often as alternative to public swimming pools, we need to make sure that that the pressure is limited.

As a mother, I can relate to getting a phone call that no parent ever wants to receive. One that says, your child is injured and needs immediate medical attention. I hope that this legislation will prevent any child from being injured in this way again.

Thank you Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking member Russo and members of the House Health Committee for listening. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.