

## **44<sup>th</sup> House District**

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## **Elgin Rogers, Jr. State Representative**

## **Committees**

Armed Services and Veterans  
Affairs  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Infrastructure  
Transportation  
Ways and Means

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and esteemed members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 10. This resolution acknowledges the significant impact of the current lifeguard shortage in Ohio and seeks to encourage individuals to consider careers as lifeguards.

The lifeguard shortage presents a critical public safety concern, underscored by troubling statistics related to drowning incidents. <sup>1</sup>For instance, African-American children aged 5 to 19 drown in swimming pools at rates 5.5 times higher than their white peers. <sup>2</sup>Black individuals of all ages have experienced one of the largest increases in drowning deaths.

Trained lifeguards are indispensable in preventing these tragic occurrences. They play a crucial role in ensuring swimmer safety and providing timely, life-saving interventions during emergencies. Notably, drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 4 in the United States. By addressing the shortage of lifeguards, we can significantly reduce the number of drowning incidents and foster a safer environment for all Ohioans.

HCR 10 not only highlights the importance of lifeguards but also aims to raise awareness about the career opportunities in this field. Encouraging individuals to pursue lifeguard certification and employment can help alleviate the current

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shortage and enhance public safety in our communities. This represents a vital initiative to address the lifeguard shortage and improve public safety across Ohio. I urge the committee to support this resolution and to help promote lifeguarding as a rewarding and impactful career choice.

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1. <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/drowning-prevention-and-facts.html>
  2. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s0514-vs-drowning.html#:~:text=Groups%20already%20at%20higher%20risk,old%20in%20the%20United%20States>