

Good Morning Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee.

It was a chilly November day and all seemed normal. Makenna, who had just turned 7 years old at the end of September, was invited to her best friend's birthday party on November 10, 2019. The parent, my good friend Kathleen, offered for me to drop Makenna off at her home where she would drive to the birthday party being held at an indoor waterpark. The kids would enjoy some time playing in the water before going back to the house for pizza and presents.

I dropped Makenna off at Kathleen's house and went about my day. Kathleen took the kids to the waterpark. Shortly after arriving at the facility, something went wrong. I received a phone call around 2:30p.m. that no parent wants to hear – my child crying and sobbing. Kathleen was on the phone explaining that Makenna was crying, but she didn't know why. All she knew was that Makenna was playing with the other girls and came out of the water crying and holding her private area.

Kathleen said that Makenna wanted to talk to me and put her on the phone. My baby girl was hysterical. She couldn't tell me what happened, but I told her she needed to let Kathleen look. After a brief moment, Kathleen was on the phone again and told me I had to meet them now. She saw that Makenna was bleeding A LOT!

It took me 20 minutes to arrive. By then, my friend had covered Makenna up and tried to stop the bleeding. I immediately took her to Cincinnati Children's Liberty Emergency Room. On the way there, I kept trying to figure out what had happened. Eventually, Makenna was able to tell me that she was standing over one of the water sprayers when it went off.

We checked in. We then went to the bathroom to try and clean Makenna up. Her clothes were soaked in blood. She was still hysterical and in intense pain. I threw her clothes in the trash and wrapped a towel around her. They took us immediately to a room where they put a pull up diaper on her. After numerous nurses and doctors checked her, they were able to get her some pain medicine. No one could determine exactly where the bleeding was coming from, nor could they get it to stop.

After many hours in the ER, they wanted to transfer us downtown, but the OBGYN, Dr. Breech, advised them to keep Makenna at liberty. Dr. Breech was making her way up to us. Upon her arrival Makenna was prepped for an exploratory procedure to find the source of the bleeding.

At approximately 8:40 p.m. Makenna was taken to the operating room for surgery. That surgery lasted 2 hours. 2 hours I couldn't be there with my baby and didn't know if she was going to be

okay. When the surgery was finished and Makenna went to recovery, I was able to be with her again.

Dr. Breech located a 4 cm laceration in Makenna's vaginal wall, which was just millimeters from lacerating her cervix. She repaired the laceration with approximately 7 sutures. The hours and days following were not easy. The pain was unimaginable for Makenna, but also for me knowing my girl was hurt.

This happened from playing in a waterpark. Makenna stood over a water feature, as I've seen many children do. I had no idea the water pressure could cause such a traumatic injury. In the days following the incident, all I could think about is that this could happen to someone else. This could happen to someone else's little girl. We need to prevent this from happening again. A blown ear drum or an eye could be next.

Finding out why this happened was just as difficult to go through. I called numerous local, county, and state officials and got no answers. I spoke with patrons of the facility and showed them photos of the water feature she was playing at. They told me the water features are not normally that high. I have put many hours into researching laws and regulations at these types of parks. What I have found is that the county health department only checks the water quality. No one checks or regulates the pressure. It's a simple ball valve. The water can be a trickle or if opened all the way can shoot 8+ feet high as some of the water was on this day.

I ask that you support this bill because I had to live through what happened to little girl. The pain and worry is not something any mother should have to go through. This bill is needed so that this doesn't happen to anyone else, whether it's your children or grandchildren.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.