



**JEAN SCHMIDT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Good afternoon Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget 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. Unfortunately, a constituent of mine in Clermont County reached out with a horrific story about how her seven year old daughter was injured at a waterpark.

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 splash pads 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.

This legislation was unanimously passed by the House Health Committee and later passed on the House floor with overwhelming support. I hope that this committee will do the same.

Thank you, Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee for letting me speak today. I will pass it along to my colleague and joint sponsor, Representative Miller.