



**Testimony of Kevin Borrup, Executive Director, Injury Prevention Center
at Connecticut Children's, to the Children's Committee regarding
SB 263, An Act Concerning Water Safety and Swim Instruction**

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Senator Maher, Representative Paris, and members of the legislature's Children's Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support for to SB 263, An Act Concerning Water Safety and Swim Instruction.

My name is Kevin Borrup, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's. Before commenting on the bill, I want to provide some background about our organization. Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, 214-bed not-for-profit children's health system driving innovation in pediatrics. With over 3,200 employees and more than 1,300 pediatric experts on our medical staff, we are the only health system in the state dedicated exclusively to the care of children.

Keeping kids safe in and around the water involves three components; education, swim lessons, and fencing/barriers. Swimming lessons are an effective strategy in reducing drowning risks. In one multi-state study that looked to the effectiveness of swim lessons, swim lessons were found to reduce the risk of drowning in 1- to 4-year-olds by as much as 88%.

For this reason, I support SB 263 and the positive impact it can have on children's safety. Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Christian Petersen, Connecticut Children's Government Relations Manager at cpetersen@connecticutchildrens.org.

References:

Brenner, R. A., Taneja, G. S., Haynie, D. L., Trumble, A. C., Qian, C., Klinger, R. M., & Klebanoff, M. A. (2009). Association between swimming lessons and drowning in childhood: a case-control study. *Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine*, 163(3), 203-210.

Ramos, W. D., & Anderson, A. R. (2017). A reasoned action approach assessment of instructional youth swim safety messaging. *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*, 10(2), 7.