



January 29, 2021

Senator William Smith (Chair) & Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (Vice-Chair)  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith & Vice-Chair Waldstreicher:

First let me thank you for considering the adoption of The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) with the passing of SB 0254 . The ISPSC is a model code that regulates the minimum requirements for the design, construction, alteration, repair, and maintenance of new or substantially re-modeled swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and aquatic facilities. This includes public swimming pools, public spas, public exercise spas, aquatic recreation facilities, permanent in-ground residential spas and pools and permanent residential spas and pools among other water venues. Abbey's Hope Charitable Foundation and the National Drowning Prevention Alliance support the adoption of the ISPSC in States and local jurisdictions around the country. We strongly encourage you to support adoption in the great state of Maryland.

Developed in collaboration with the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA; formerly the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals), ISPSC adoption provides many benefits supporting the safety and health of water. If adopted, the code requires pools and other water facilities to: meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (VGB Act); meet the APSP-7 standard for suction entrapment avoidance; require layers of protection around pools and spas that help prevent the unfettered access by children, including fencing, covers and door and window alarms; and ensure that water quality is healthy and safe, among many other safety and health provisions.

In June of 2007, six-year old Abigail Taylor suffered a horrific injury while swimming in a public pool. That injury ultimately took her life. Abbey was playing in a wading pool when she unknowingly sat on a drain that was poorly maintained and unequipped with the appropriate safety devices. The powerful suction of the pool eviscerated Abbey. Her small intestine was ripped from her body. The serious injury was followed by 9 months of medical care, including 16 different surgeries, a triple organ transplant, several infections and most of her sixth year of life in a hospital bed. Despite the best medical care and attention and our constant vigilance and prayers, Abbey died March 20, 2008. Abbey's hope was that no child should ever suffer like she did as a result of an improperly maintained pool or from a preventable drowning. In her memory Abbey's Hope Charitable Foundation was formed.

One our greatest achievements was helping the United States Congress to pass The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Safety Act (VGB Act) which requires entrapment safety devices on all **public** pools in Maryland and around the country. Significantly, since the effective date of this law, there has not been a single entrapment death at a public pool or spa, however, the passage of this measure alone is not enough in Maryland. Adoption of the ISPSC will help close that safety gap between public and residential pools and spas by requiring the same entrapment protection provided from the VGB Act to, at least, newly constructed pools/spas and substantially remodeled existing pools/spas. Please help fulfill Abbey's hope of 'safer pools, safer kids' by adopting the ISPSC code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Korn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Korn, J.D.

Executive Director, Abbey's Hope Charitable Foundation

Board Member and General Counsel, National Drowning Prevention Alliance