



March 30, 2007

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, I want to thank you for once again sponsoring H.R. 1721, the *Pool and Spa Safety Act*. If passed, we believe that this bill would help protect children from drowning-related death and injury.

As you know, drowning is the number two accidental injury-related killer of children ages 1 to 14. In 2003, 285 children died from accidental drowning in a swimming pool. The majority of children who drown in swimming pools were last seen in the home, had been missing from sight for *less than five minutes*, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning.

In addition, the suction from drain outlets is strong enough to cause entrapment of hair or body parts. Thirty-three children ages 14 and under died from pool and spa entrapment between 1985 to 2004. During the same time period, nearly 100 children were injured as well. However, because entrapment is generally a little-known risk for drowning, it is possible that many drowning deaths have not been classified as entrapment and as a result, the number of fatalities could be much higher than reported.

We know that the installation of safeguards, such as anti-entrapment drain covers, safety vacuum release systems and barriers/fences, can effectively protect children from the potential dangers of swimming pools and spas. Enactment of the *Pool and Spa Safety Act* would provide grants to states for passing laws to require the installation of these safety features, support drowning prevention education programs on both the national and state level as well as establish a federal safety standard for anti-entrapment drain covers.

If Safe Kids can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 662-4463 or Tanya Chin Ross, Senior Public Policy Associate, at (202) 662-0606. Thank you for your continuing leadership on this important safety initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alan Korn", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Korn, J.D.
Director of Public Policy & General Counsel

Safe Kids Worldwide is a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under. More than 450 coalitions in 16 countries bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.