

## FLORIDA ACTION ALERT

Dear Florida Friend:

Please join Safe Kids Worldwide in a bipartisan effort to preserve basic swimming pool safety in the State of Florida. It is estimated that there are more than 36,000 public swimming pools in Florida.

**This is Why It's So Important:** In April 2014, three kids aged 10, 6 and 5 were swimming in the pool at an apartment complex in Hialeah. One of the children grabbed on to a metal railing and then she fell limp. That's because the pool's pump was defective and she received a strong electric shock. Her fast-acting grandfather pulled Daniella her out of the water and then two other kids, Freddie and Diego. All three were hospitalized, but are now fine. Inspectors said that the pool pump was not properly grounded and that created the electrical current on the rail and in the water. There is surveillance [video](#) of this incident but please know it is disturbing to watch.



[Surveillance video of Hialeah incident, this can be disturbing](#)

**This is What's Happening in Tallahassee:** Legislation is under consideration removes the full authority of Florida Department of Health to inspect public pools and spas. This is required by federal law in *The Virginia Graeme Pool & Spa Safety Act*. The bill forbids the Department of Health inspectors from making sure fences and gates work, that ladders are not broken and the drains are working properly. In addition, the inspectors would not be able to ensure that pools are compliant with electrical codes—like those that should have been in effect in Hialeah. Inspectors would only be able to check the water quality, but nothing else. The House bill passed. Senate bill 1232 would retain the Department of Health's inspection responsibility. SB 1232 keeps Florida pool safety and oversight in place.

**What We Need From You:** We need you to contact the following either by an email or tweet to implore them to retain the provision in the Senate version of the bill. **We need you to act now.** We have provided you with a short, sample email, but it would be great to add the story about the Hialeah incident or your own experience.

Email and/or tweet the following state senators to support SB 1232. A sample email is:

*Dear Senator XXXX, Please support SB 1232 which is vital to maintaining pool safety in Florida. It would maintain the job of the Department of Health to check for dangers at public pools and spas. As we get closer to much warmer weather and school breaks for the summer, it is vital that our pools are safe and kids are not in danger.*

- Senate President Andy Gardiner: [gardiner.andy.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:gardiner.andy.web@flsenate.gov)
- Senator Jack Latvala: [latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov) Twitter: [@jacklatvala](https://twitter.com/jacklatvala)
- Senator Wilton Simpson: [simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov) Twitter: [@WiltonSimpson](https://twitter.com/WiltonSimpson)

Please blind [copy me](#) on your actions. Thanks for helping us keep kids safe,

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