

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 185

Recognizing and expressing support for the goals and ideals of National
Water Safety Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2017

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and expressing support for the goals and ideals
of National Water Safety Month.

Whereas, according to the 2016 report of the Consumer
Product Safety Commission, there were estimated aver-
ages of—

(1) 5,600 pool- or spa-related nonfatal drowning in-
juries treated at a hospital emergency department during
each of the 2013 through 2015 calendar years; and

(2) 367 pool- or spa-related nonfatal or fatal drown-
ing injuries involving children younger than 15 years old
during each of the 2011 through 2013 calendar years,
with 77 percent of those injuries involving children
younger than 5 years old;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is—

- (1) the leading cause of unintentional death in the United States among children 1 through 4 years old; and
- (2) the second-leading cause of unintentional death in the United States among children 5 through 14 years old;

Whereas drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury or death in the United States, and every day, approximately 10 individuals die from unintentional drowning, 2 of whom are children 14 years old or younger;

Whereas the goal of National Water Safety Month is to prevent or reduce the number of unintentional drowning-related injuries and deaths in pools and open water venues;

Whereas the recreational water industry, as represented by the organizations involved in the National Water Safety Month Coalition, has contributed to that goal by—

- (1) developing, through codes and standards, safe public swimming facilities and residential pools and spas; and
- (2) providing aquatic programs and public awareness relating to unintentional accidents in pools and open water venues;

Whereas unintentional drowning deaths that occur each year, especially of children under 5 years old, can be prevented by teaching children to swim, by using barriers and other devices that aid in preventing access to areas where drowning could occur, and especially by providing constant adult supervision without distraction;

Whereas each public pool and spa in the United States should be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.), which was signed into law on December 19, 2007, and requires all public pools to install safe drain covers that help prevent entrapment;

Whereas each residential pool and spa in the United States should be built and maintained in accordance with the guidelines described in that Act or the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, which a State or locality may adopt through building codes and standards;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of drowning deaths occur during May through August; and

Whereas, for the tenth consecutive year, May has been recognized as National Water Safety Month: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Water Safety Month;

4 (2) supports promoting awareness of water
5 safety by increasing public education and awareness;

6 (3) acknowledges the grief of families who have
7 faced the loss of a loved one, and commends the
8 families who, in their grief, choose to promote and
9 educate the public on water safety;

10 (4) encourages States, localities, and territories
11 of the United States to—

1 (A) support the goals and ideals of Na-
2 tional Water Safety Month by issuing a procla-
3 mation to designate May 2017 as “National
4 Water Safety Month”;

5 (B) support the adoption of codes and
6 standards that provide safety requirements that
7 may decrease the incidence of drowning; and

8 (C) engage in and encourage public aware-
9 ness campaigns, including campaigns that edu-
10 cate individuals on—

11 (i) how to swim;

12 (ii) layers of protection; and

13 (iii) adult supervision;

14 (5) recognizes the vital role that swimming and
15 aquatic-related activities play in maintaining phys-
16 ical and mental health and enhancing quality of life;

17 (6) encourages efforts to educate the public
18 about water safety to prevent drownings and rec-
19 reational water-related injuries; and

20 (7) understands the vital importance of commu-
21 nicating water safety rules and programs to families
22 and individuals of all ages, including owners of pri-
23 vate pools, users of public swimming facilities, and
24 visitors to waterparks.

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