



Dear Governor Andy Beshear,

We, the undersigned community leaders, are writing to express our strong support for Swim With Purpose and its vital mission to renovate the Aquatic Center at Kentucky State University. As prominent members of our community, we recognize the critical importance of this project and its impact on water safety and drowning prevention in our state.

Kentucky State University, Franklin County and Frankfort have been without an indoor swimming facility for over three years now. The Capitol of the Commonwealth should be in a position to lead by example in fostering water safety initiatives. As such, the urgency of this renovation cannot be overstated, especially when considering the alarming drowning statistics in Kentucky and across the nation:

- From 2016 through 2021, 329 Kentuckians died by unintentional drowning.
- Kentucky averages 14 children drowning deaths per year, with about half occurring among children ages 1 to 4.
- According to a CDC study minorities are 50% more likely to drown than non-minorities. Minority children are up to ten times more likely to drown. These statistics underscore the urgent need for accessible swimming facilities and water safety education in our state and this community.

The renovation of the Aquatic Center at Kentucky State University will provide:

Vital Water Safety Education: Swimming lessons and water safety courses can significantly reduce the risk of drowning, especially for children and minorities.

Community Health: A functional aquatic center will offer opportunities for exercise, therapy, and wellness programs.

Economic Development: A renovated facility will attract students, residents, events and visitors, boosting our local economy.

Inclusivity: Aquatic programs can cater to all age groups and abilities, fostering a more inclusive community.

Governor Beshear, we implore you to support this critical initiative. By backing Swim With Purpose and the renovation of the Aquatic Center, we can take a significant step towards reducing drowning incidents in our state and providing a valuable resource for our community.

Let us work together to make Kentucky a leader in water safety and drowning prevention. Our community deserves a functional, modern facility that will serve generations to come and potentially save countless lives

Respectfully,

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____