



Hope Floats
Swim it Forward.



STOP
DROWNING
NOW



POOL &
HOT TUB
ALLIANCE



NDPA
NATIONAL DROWNING
PREVENTION ALLIANCE

May 22, 2020

RE: Public Health Need to Safely Open Swimming Pools

Dear President Trump & Dr. Birx,

We are America's team.
We are America's youth.
And we need your help.

We are writing to you on behalf of America's youth and over 5,000 professional aquatics businesses nationwide. Every child in America needs to learn how to swim. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children under age 5 and the second leading cause of death for children under 14.¹ National Institute of Health studies show that there is an 88% reduction in the risk of drowning for children enrolled in formal swim lessons.² The majority of pools in America are currently closed by governors who may not be aware of the life threatening risk the water poses to children. We are requesting your assistance in getting this message to the governors so that pools can be safely reopened as soon as possible.

During these unprecedented times we truly believe we can safely return to the pools without jeopardizing the "new normal" that all Americans want and deserve. The CDC and NIH has confirmed that the disease cannot spread in properly chlorinated water. For physical and mental health, the water is one of the safer places to be at this time, and swimming is a lifelong activity. Opening swim centers would allow children to learn much needed water safety and drowning prevention skills. It would allow the 500,000 youth athletes on America's swim teams to get back to their training. It would allow MILLIONS of American adults to exercise safely and build their immune systems which is needed now more than ever! We can do this safely. Swim training programs are carefully structured and can follow all recommendations that the CDC has recently released to reopen swimming pools.³

The professional aquatics industry represents 5,000 locations nationwide, including USA Swimming swim clubs, swim schools and municipalities. When the shutdown occurred in March our entire industry was closed down, impacting over 300,000 aquatic professionals' jobs. At this point, over two months later, the financial impact has been devastating to our industry representing losses of hundreds of millions of dollars in income, lost jobs, and is a serious threat to the future of our industry.

We love what swimming brings to the world. We proudly wear America's colors to represent the USA at the Olympics and around the world. Please help America's teams and America's youth get back to their sport and passion. It is vital to our health, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness and Olympic dreams. We would be glad to make ourselves available for any questions or discussions that you may want to have with respect to our ability to safely reopen our facilities safely and serve the youth of America.

¹ <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/campaigns/drowning-prevention/Pages/default.aspx>

² Association Between Swimming Lessons and Drowning in Childhood, A Case-Control Study: Ruth Brenner, et al., 2009
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4151293/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

Signatories

<p>Rowdy Gaines 3X Olympic Gold Medalist Drowning Prevention Advocate Vice President of Aquatics Central Florida YMCA</p>	<p>Nathan Adrian 3X Team USA Olympic Member 5X Olympic Gold Medalist 2016 TEAM USA Olympic Team Captain</p>
<p>Lenny Krayzelburg 4X Olympic Gold Medalist Team Captain 2004 US Olympic Team Owner of SwimRight Academy Lenny Krayzelburg Swim Academy</p>	<p>Ryan Lochte 4X Team USA Olympian 12X Olympic Medalist</p>
<p>Amanda Beard 4X Olympian 7X Olympic medalist Owner of Beard Swim Co.</p>	<p>Gary Hall, Jr. 3X Team USA Olympian 10X Team USA Olympic Medalist USA Olympic Hall of Fame Inductee</p>
<p>Debbie Meyer 1968 Team USA Olympic Member 3X Olympic Gold Medalist Owner Debbie Myers Swim School</p>	<p>Amy Deloris Van Dyken-Rouen 2X Olympian 6X Olympic Gold Medalist</p>
<p>Jessica Hardy Team USA Olympic Member Olympic Gold Medalist</p>	<p>Lia Neal 2012 & 2016 Team USA Olympic Member 2X Olympic Medalist</p>
<p>Jason Lezak 2X Olympic Team Captain 8X Olympic Gold Medalist Current World Record Holder USA Swimming Foundation Ambassador</p>	<p>BJ Bedford Team USA Olympic Member Olympic Gold Medalist</p>
<p>Gabe Woodward 2004 Olympic Medalist Owner of Bakersfield Swim Academy and Bakersfield Swim Club</p>	<p>Dr. Jenny Thompson 4X Team USA Olympian, 12X Team USA Olympic Medalist USA Olympic Hall of Fame Inductee Anesthesiologist, Ralph H Johnson VA Medical Center</p>
<p>Jeremy Linn 1996 Olympian Head Site Coach- West Nation's Capital Swim Club</p>	<p>Matt Grevers 2X Team USA Olympian 6X Team USA Olympic Medalist</p>
<p>Rebecca Soni 3X Olympic Gold Medalist</p>	<p>Anthony Ervin 3X Olympic Gold Medalist</p>
<p>Natalie Coughlin 12X Olympic Medalist</p>	<p>Kaitlin Sandeno Olympic Gold Medalist</p>
<p>Kristy Kowal Olympic Silver Medalist</p>	<p>Breeja Larson Olympic Gold Medalist</p>

Ricky Berens Olympic Gold Medalist	Susie Atwood Olympic Silver Medalist
Trina Jackson 1996 Olympian Olympic Gold Medalist	Hans Dersch 1992 Olympian Olympic Gold Medalist
Dominik Meichtry 3X Olympian	Kara Lynn Joyce 4X Olympic Silver Medalist
Catherine Fox Team USA Olympic Member Olympic Gold Medalist	Tony Azevedo 5X Olympic Water Polo Team USA Captain
Steve Pickell 2X Olympian Olympic Silver Medalist	Mike O'Brien 1984 Olympian Olympic Gold Medalist
Bruce Furniss 1976 Olympian 2X Gold Medalist	Steve Furniss 1972 Olympic Team Captain 1972 Bronze Medalist
Kathy Heddy 1976 Olympian World Champion	Kami Craig Olympic Water Polo Team 2X Olympic Gold Medalist

Paris Jacobs

Chief Operations Officer
American Swimming Coaches Association
CO-Owner/ CEO - Machine Brands

Daniel Jacobs, II

Owner/ Head Coach- Machine Aquatics
Owner- Machine Swim School

Cindy Tonnesen

Founder & Board Chair, Hope Floats Foundation
Co-Founder, SwimKids Swim Schools

Dave Tonnesen

Co-Founder, SwimKids Swim Schools

Steve Roush

Chief Executive Officer
American Swim Coaches Association

Sid Cassidy

Vice Chairman FINA Technical Open Water
Aquatic Director/ Head Coach- St. Andrews

John Kirk

President

Frank Busch

5-time Olympic Coach
6-time NCAA Coach of the Year
Former National Team Director, USA Swimming

Greg Troy

4x Olympic Team Coach
Head Coach Gator Swim Club

John Urbanchek

USA Swimming National Team Technical Advisor

John H. Collins

Head coach Badger Swim Club (Larchmont, NY)
2X USA World Championship Head Coach

Catherine Case

Associate Head Coach USC Swimming
2016 & 2021 Head Open Water Coach USA Olympic Team

Mark Schubert

8X Team USA Olympic Coach
Former USA Swimming National Team Director
Head Coach- Mission Viejo Nadadores

Dave Salo

United States Swim School Association
Co-Founder Little Otter Swim School

National Club Coaches Association
Board of Directors

Adam B. Katchmarchi, Ph.D., EMT-B
Executive Director
National Drowning Prevention Alliance

Jim Spiers
President
Stop Drowning Now

Sabeena Hickman, CAE
President & CEO
Pool & Hot Tub Alliance

Melissa McGarvey
National Director of Aquatics
British Swim School Franchising, LLC Virginia Beach, VA

Todd Schmitz
Head Coach/CEO
Colorado STARS
2012 USA Olympic Coach

Chris Davis Jr
Head Age Group Coach
Swim Atlanta

3x Team USA Olympic Team Coach
Head Coach- University of Southern California

David C. Ferris
Director Long Island Swimming LLC
United States Swimming Junior National Team Coach

Paul Silver
Marlins of Raleigh- Head Coach
USA Swimming National Team Coach

Mike Koleber
President- American Swim Coaches Association
Owner- NITRO Swim Club

Bill Schalz
Head Coach- Academy Bullets
USA Swimming National Team Coach

Jeff Cooper
Co-Head coach/ CFO-OLY Swimming
NCSA Board Member

Dan Hafner
Senior Coach-COR Swimming
NCSA Board Member

David Arluck
Founder/ CEO
Fitter Faster Swim Tours

5 Cities Swim School-Arroyo Grande, CA
7C's Swim School-Bothell, WA
Abc Aquatics-Chino, CA Academy Swim Club-Valencia & Newhall, CA
AcroSports Swimming-Friendswood & League City, TX
All Star Swim Academy-Henderson, NV
Alligator Steps Swim School-Clayton, Smithfield, Goldsboro, & Wendell, NC
America's Kids Swim School-Clovis, CA
American Kids Sports Center-Bakersfield, CA
American Swim Academy-Fremont, Newark, Livermore, Dublin, Walnut Creek, CA
Annette's Swim School-Boca Raton, FL
Aqua April-League City, TX
Aqua Beba Swim, Brooklyn, NY
Aqua Pros Swim School-San Diego, CA
AQua Wave Swim School-Foothill Ranch, CA
AquaKids-Palmetto Bay, FL
Aquatic Adventures-Roanoke, VA
Australian Swim Schools Inc.-Tarzana, Fullerton, Fountain Valley, & Santa Ana, CA
AVAC Swim School-San Jose, CA
Bitty Bubbles Swim School-Panama City, FL
Blue Buoy Swim School-Tustin, CA

Born 2 Swim Aquatic Academy-Miami, FL
British Swim School-Frisco, Plano, Rowlett, TX
British Swim School - Coral Springs-Coral Springs, Parkland and Tamarac, FL
British Swim School - East Valley-Gilbert, Mesa, & San Tan Valley, AZ
British Swim School Bay Area-Millbrae, South San Francisco, & Richmond, CA
British Swim School DuPage-Naperville; Glendale Heights; Carol Stream, Bolingbrook; Oswego; & South Elgin, IL
British Swim School Hudson Waterfront-Jersey City, Bayonne, Secaucus, & Weehawken, NJ
British Swim School of Vancouver-Vancouver, WA
Cal Elite Kids-Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
CELTS Swim School-Matteson, Orland Park, Country Club Hills, Burr Ridge, Lyons, Crestwood, Chicago, Calumet City, Arlington Heights, Downers Grove, & Lemont, IL
Chicago Swim School-Arlington Heights, & Mokena, IL
Coach Eve Learn To Swim-Matteson, Chicago, Hillcrest, Harvey, Calumet City, Willow Brook, Lyons, Lemont, Oak Brook, Naperville, Carol Streams, Glen Ellyn, Arlington Heights, Wheeling, & Orland, IL
Daland Swim School-Thousand Oaks, CA
Deep Blue Swim School-Long Beach, CA
DeMont Family Swim School-Tucson, AZ
Discover Aquatics-Olympia, WA
DoIFUN SWIM Academy-Portland, OR
Dolphin Swim Academy-Madison, WI
Dolphin Swim Club-Loves Park & Crystal Lake, IL
Education for all squid school-Osakis, MN
Evolution Swim Academy-Mission Viejo, Ladera Ranch, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, & Rancho Mission Viejo, CA
Fast Track Swimming-Tomball, TX
Fish Tails Swim School-Stuart, FL
Florida Swim School-Boca Raton, FL
Houston Swim Club Pearland & Cypress-Pearland & Houston, TX
iheartswimming-Tustin, CA Inglis Swim School-Austin, TX
Jamie's School of Fish-Clovis & Fresno, CA
Just Swim Inc.-Cooper City, FL
Karen's Aquatics-Sierra Vista, AZ
Kids 1st Swim School-Palm Beach Gardens, Jupiter, North Palm Beach, & Wellington, FL
Kids First Swim School Springfield-Springfield, VA
Kswim Schools-Los Angeles, CA
Miller Swim School-Tulsa & Jenks, OK
Ocaquatics Swim School-Miami, Coral Gables, & Hialeah Gardens, FL
Physique Swimming-New York, NY
Pods Swimming-East Providence, RI
Premier Aquatics-Aliso Viejo, Irvine, Mission Viejo, & Laguna Beach, CA
Premier Swim Academy-Rancho Cucamonga, CA
PRO Swim Academy-Elk Grove Village, IL
Propel Swim Academy-South Riding, VA
Quality Swimming-Coconut Creek, & Boca Raton, FL
Rogue Aquatics-Medford, OR
Saf-T-Swim-Long Island, NY
Salem Gymnastics & Swim-Winston-Salem, NC
Seal Swim School-Lutz, Riverview, Tampa, Wesley Chapel, FL
Shepard Swim School-Elkhart, IN
Sherman Swim School-Lafayette, CA
Silver Bear Swim School-Reno & Sparks, NV & Truckee, CA
Small Fish Big Fish Swim School-West Palm Beach, FL
Smart Fish Academy-Cypress, CA
Speer Swim School-Broomall, PA
Splash Swim School-San Ramon & Walnut Creek, CA
Stony Creek Swim Center-Noblesville, IN
Summer's Swim Academy-League City, TX
Sun Country Sports Center-Jonesville, FL
Survival Swim School of the Brazos Valley-Bryan, TX

Sutton Swim School-Campbell, CA
Sweet Blue Swim Academy-Greenwich, CT & Stamford, CT
Swim Consultant-Boca Raton , FL
Swim Float Swim!-Longmont, CO
Swim Gym Swim School-Miami, FL
Swim to Shore-Murrieta, CA
Swim Tutors USA-Naples & Bonita Springs, FL
SwimAmerica-Davis-Davis, CA
SWIMBABES-Milwaukie, OR Swimhaus
Swim School-Gilbert, AZ
SwimJim-NewYork, NY & Houston, TX
SwimKids Swim Schools-Woodbridge, Gainesville, Leesburg, & Fredericksburg, VA
SWIMkids USA, Inc.-Mesa, Arizona & Chandler AZ
Swimmerman Swim School-Atlanta, Jonesboro, & Stockbridge, GA
Swimming Safari Swim School-Jacksonville, FL
Swimming Safari Swimming School-Jacksonville, FL
SwimSRQ-Sarasota, FL
Texas Swim Academy-Katy, TX The
Swim Center-Stockbridge, GA
Water You Wading For-Chicago, Oak Lawn, & Evergreen Park, IL
Watersafe Swim School-Seal Beach & Los Alamitos, CA
WaterSprites Swim School-Chico, CA
Waterworks Aquatics-Huntington Beach, Irvine, Carlsbad, San Jose, Pasadena, & Sierra Madre, CA & Highlands Ranch,
CO
Westside Aquatics-Los Angeles, CA
Wings Over Water, Brewster, NY & Fairfield, CT
Wisconsin Swim Academy-Appleton, WI