Dear [Legislator Name],

I am writing to urge you to sponsor legislation to make water safety education a mandatory piece of our public school curriculum, in [your state].

I’ve recently learned that drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children and teens, and that, for every child that dies from drowning, another five visit the emergency room for nonfatal submersion injuries. These tragedies, that impact thousands of American families every year, are almost entirely preventable. The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports that learning to swim can help reduce a child’s risk of drowning by up to 88%.

Ideally, I would like to see all school-aged children get the opportunity to learn to swim, in a pool with an instructor, as a vital part of their physical education instruction. At the very least, children should be given dry land swim lessons and drowning prevention education in schools. It is beyond time for our leaders and lawmakers to get to work ensuring that all children have access to the tools they need to be safe in the water.

Will you commit to reimagining a world where our children have access to water safety and take action to make that a reality?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[Your Name]