



Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc.

Testimony of
The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association

Before the Legislature's Public Safety & Security Committee
Legislative Office Building

Re: HB 5875 An Act Concerning the Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries While Diving

The Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association ("CRPA") represents approximately 700 individuals who represent municipal parks and recreation commissions in almost all 169 communities in Connecticut. Additionally, hundreds of CRPA members are trained aquatic professionals.

CRPA supports HB 5875 with one concern involving Section 1C of the proposed bill

Section 1C indicates that: *"any installation of starting blocks for a swimming pool in which competitive swimming occurs shall be in a section of the pool where the water is not less than 6 feet in depth"* The concerns are as follows:

- 1) It is unclear whether existing public swimming pools that have starting blocks in swimming pools less than 6 feet of water are eligible for a "Grandfather Clause" enabling those facilities the ability to replace those starting blocks if they need to be replaced. Should a grandfather clause not be put in place, many long-time youth competitive swimming programs will cease to exist because the requirement will be impossible to adhere to without some cost prohibitive renovations?
- 2) Currently the United States Swimming Association, a national governing body for youth competitive swimming mandates that starting blocks must be put in place where there is a minimum of 4 feet of water. The State of Connecticut Swimming Pool Design Guide, by the department of Public Health is similar in its requirement that starting blocks must be placed where there is 4.5 feet of water.

It is not necessary, given the proposed requirement that those using the starting blocks will be supervised by competent personnel. Swimming coaches are trained to oversee the instruction of swimmers to dive off the starting blocks in 4-4.5 feet

CRPA request that Section 1C be omitted the proposed bill and fully supports Section 1A and 1B.

Thank you for your consideration.



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