

Melanie Youschak M.D.
Pediatrics Alliance
1111 12th street KW
Key West, Fl 33040
April 3, 2017

Dear County Commissioners,

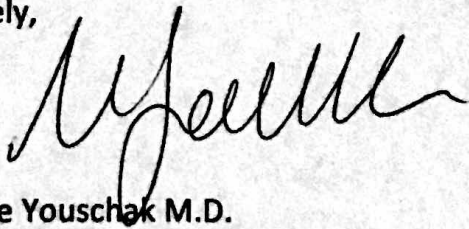
As a pediatrician and a mother I am well aware of the dangers of childhood drowning. I have firsthand seen the devastation it can cause to a child, a family, and a community.

Every day, ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States and is the leading cause of accidental death for children aged 1-4 years old. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries. These nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning.

Our community has all of the risk factors that other towns have including family pools and bathtubs but we also have a huge amount of unfenced waterways in the forms of our canals, beaches, and retention ponds. Our children are at higher risk.

The ISR class is different than a traditional swimming class in that the focus is not on learning new swimming strokes but on surviving a water submersion. This is a water survival class. It teaches children of varying ages developmentally appropriate ways to float and reach the wall. This survival skill can be the difference in saving a life. Please contact me if you have further questions 727-543-8385.

Sincerely,



Melanie Youschak M.D.