

## Senate Education Committee

March 3rd, 2025

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### **Bill: HB 247 – School Swimming and Lifeguarding Programs**

Sponsor: Representative Melissa G. Ballard

Floor Sponsor: Senator Jen Plumb

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill enacts provisions in public education related to water safety.

Discussion: The sponsor provided background on how certain communities have less access to water safety education and explained that the Bill was heard in an interim committee. It serves two key purposes. First, it ensures that K-12 students acquire water safety skills, enabling them to protect themselves and others. These skills would be incorporated into PE standards. Second, the Bill allows students to earn PE credit by completing various aquatic training programs.

A pool operator for Salt Lake County highlighted the Bill's benefits, noting that drowning is a leading cause of death among children and that this initiative could provide both lifesaving education and recreational opportunities in schools. He also emphasized the vocational training benefits for teens earning PE credit through aquatic skill programs.

The Utah Academy of Family Physicians, the Utah PTA, and the Black Physicians of Utah spoke in support of the Bill. Senator Balderree spoke in opposition, stating that she felt the Bill duplicated existing programs and could place an undue burden on schools. No further discussion followed.

Yeas: 2

Nays: 2

N/V: 3

**Outcome: HB 247 failed to passed out of the Committee.**