Sample email to the Governor

To: egb@gov.ca.gov

Subject: Act to Make California Kids Safer on Roads and In Pools

Dear Governor Brown,

I am a <Choose One: parent, grandparent, teenager, California citizen> and I thank you for all you have done to make our kids safer in California. But unintentional injury remains the number one killer of our state's kids—and 12.3% of the nation’s kids 18 and under live here. That's why we feel so strongly about the two bills discussed below to make California kids safer from preventable injuries on the road and in water.

We want to share with you a story of the pain of preventable injury that’s repeated all too often. They happen on our roads and in one of the state’s 1.8 million pools. Parents know how to keep their kids safe, and strive to do so, but there are factors beyond their control which can be remedied by smart laws. Consider the tragedy of Elizabeth and Jayce Thao. They were an inseparable brother and sister pair ages 2- and 3-years old who drowned in Fresno just last year. With their parents at work, the kids were being cared for by relatives. The kids left their home through an open garage door and walked over to a neighbor’s house. They entered the yard through an open gate to the residence and climbed over the pool fence using boxes as their makeshift ladder. The owner of the home found them dead in the pool when the police arrived.

**Prevent Drowning Deaths with Common Sense Safety Barriers**Elizabeth and Jayce are two reasons why we need to update California’s 20+ year old Pool Safety Act with SB 442. Water is a magnet for a curious child’s attention, and drowning is the number one cause of death of California kids 1-4. For every fatal drowning, there are five more near-drowning incidents, many resulting in brain injury. Please sign SB 442 which would require swimming pools (new, modified and subject to a home sale) to be fitted with a safety barrier. Existing California law is weak on preventing a child’s access to pools—whether it is at their own home or a neighbor’s house. Please sign SB 442.

**Make Roads Safer for All Who Share the Roads**AB 63 would extend CA’s GDL driver program to all young, first time drivers. GDL is a practical, proven program and AB 63 would give all new teen drivers the experience and awareness they need to drive on California’s 394,608 lane miles of roads and highways. CA’s older teens ages 18-20 are four times more likely to be involved in a crash than those aged 16 and 17. What’s the difference? The younger 16- and 17-year-old novice drivers are required to take the sensible steps of driver education and initial license restrictions. This is a dangerous loophole, allowing 18-, 19- and 20-year-old first time drivers behind the wheel with effective experience. This change in the law would not prevent any young adult from driving. Rather, this would empower teen drivers to be safe for their own protection, and all of us sharing the road with them.

<Choose One: parent, grandparent, teenager, California citizen>, I respectfully ask you to sign both pieces of legislation.