

>>> "Gayleen Brown" <leanbean7@msn.com> 4/21/08 9:07 PM >>>

My name is Gayleen Brown and I am 16 years old and am a sophomore at South Salem High School. I have heard the recent news of the closing of all public Salem area pools and I would like to voice my opinion.

I have only done swim team for two years and water polo for one now but I have come to have a love for both. I have struggled to find what I am good at all through school, I finally found it with water sports. I started out as one of the kids that would have been cut if swimming were a sport that had to make cuts, but since the opportunity I had to work and improve I have become the anchor leg of our state relay. At South we have a large number of students involved in swimming, and I know for me at least it has become something that I love.

I feel that taking away the only way for normal kids like me to work at something that they love and become truly good at, such as swimming or water polo, would be truly hard to recover from when you have worked so hard to achieve above mediocrity, even greatness.

I know that my argument is not the most supported by facts or research or anything like that, but I know what kind of an impact this will make first hand, it will take away the thing that I love the most. My entire team has worked so hard and to have that taken away in one motion would be devastating.

Thank You for your time,
Gayleen Brown