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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2006

To: The Honorable Gene Mullin, Chair
Members, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, Vice President & General Counsel
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Michael A. Paiva, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 2977 (Mullin) Public Safety
Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee – April 26, 2006
As Amended April 6, 2006

PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write 55% of the homeowners' insurance sold in the state, **supports Assembly Bill 2977** by Assemblyman Mullin.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound public safety measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. Drowning is the number one cause of injury fatality among children ages 1 through 4 and for every drowning victim there are four more near-drowners, many of whom suffer traumatic brain injury.

For decades, homes in incorporated areas of the state with backyard swimming pools have been required to have perimeter fencing around their property to prevent neighborhood children from gaining unsupervised access to the pool. This has proved very effective yet tragically, it is the children living in the home that are at the greatest risk of drowning in the backyard pool.

Although previous legislation has worked to dramatically reduce swimming pool fatalities by 50% over the past five years, swimming pool fatalities still remains the number one cause of injury death for toddlers. AB 2977 addresses two very important aspects of pool and spa safety for which current law falls short, leaving California's children vulnerable to preventable injuries and death in over one million plus homes with existing pools and spas without safety standards. The bill would require that whenever a homeowner takes out a building permit to remodel their pool or spa, they must install 2 of 7 proposed safety features to prevent toddler access to the pool and they must add an anti-entrapment cover to the drain which prevents hair and body entrapment for children and adults. AB 2977 would also require that whenever a hotel, motel or apartment complex remodels their pool or spa, that they add the anti-entrapment cover to the drains.

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For the foregoing reasons, **PIFC supports AB 2977 and urges your "yes" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's support, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

CC: Honorable Gene Mullin, Author
Lisa Engel, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
William Weber, Assembly Republican Caucus
Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Legislative Secretary for the Governor
Kathleen Webb, Office of the Insurance Advisor