



State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Date: March 11, 2008
Commerce Committee Public Hearing

Re: Testimony in support of HB 5896

From: State Representative Carlo Leone
State Representative Gerald Fox

Senator LeBeau, Rep. Berger, Members of the Commerce Committee, we are here today to offer testimony in support of **HB 5881 An Act Concerning Financial Assistance For Amateur Boxing**. First we would like to thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to speak here today. This bill would provide support for an amateur boxing associations that locate in the state and provide community programming particularly for youth.

The very name of Olympics carries with it a designation of being one of most highly respected organizations in all of sports. It is the pinnacle that all athletes strive for, and the fact that we now have a chance to bring their presence into Connecticut is a high point for our State.

Olympic Boxing not only has a deep roots in our sporting heritage, but it provides our youth an avenue towards excellence, a chance to build self-esteem and teaches them how to overcome obstacles in life. Boxing is a sport that creates not only a physically well conditioned person, but a mentally tough individual as well.

We welcome the Olympic Boxing organization and agree with their goals of getting kids off the streets by providing them an opportunity to improve their lives with a positive activity, and more importantly change their lives for the better. Their "Gloves, Not Guns" program is a fine example of positive youth outreach. It is a simple slogan, but the results are profound. Adding this type of a Boxing University is an investment in long-term goals consistent with the type of partnerships Connecticut is looking for to help our youth.

The presence of Olympic Boxing in Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford will be a testament to being fully committed to a growing the sport and industry in our state by making it's presence felt in four of our largest cities. I cannot recall any other organization willing to relocate in as many locations at their first entry into a market in the region.

We are excited and fully in support of the concepts in HB 5881. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and would be happy to answer any questions members may have.