



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Joint Committee on Children  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my strong support for the efforts of the Boys & Girls Club of New Britain ("the Club") to obtain state bond funding for a much needed upgrade to their facility. Providing almost 120 years of service to youth ages 6-18, the Club has worked to provide a positive place for at risk youth by creating opportunities that enhance the quality of life as they become participating members of society.

The current building at 150 Washington Street, built in 1973 and last updated in 1991, requires substantial refurbishing and renovation to meet the growing needs of its membership of more than 2,600 local boys and girls. As a nonprofit organization, the Club has limited resources and operates on a lean budget yet continues to provide high quality programming and proper maintenance of its facilities for the benefit and safety of our youth members.

The Club currently has an aggressive capital fundraising campaign underway to make the necessary \$1.7 million in improvements needed to continue providing a safe haven for recreation and education for New Britain's inner city youth. The \$1.3 million in bond funding sought in SB 17 will ensure that the vital services the Club provides continue during this tough economic climate, when these at risk youth need them the most.

Thank you for your consideration of the Boys & Girls Club of New Britain and their efforts to maintain a high quality facility in which to provide their exceptional service to our community.

Sincerely,

Timothy T. Stewart  
Mayor, City of New Britain

TTS/lrc