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Testimony before the Public Safety and Security Committee  
Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
11:00 AM  
Room 2D. Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: SB 326, An Act Concerning Mixed Martial Arts**

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Representative Joe Aresimowicz from the Thirtieth District serving Berlin and Southington.

I am offering testimony in support of SB 326, An Act Concerning Mixed Martial Arts. This is a bill that permits a sport that is currently operating in the state at some level in an unregulated fashion. The bill would mandate that mixed martial arts is subject to oversight by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) requires additional regulation of the sport to ensure uniformity and safety.

Not only will the passage of the bill bring revenues to the state and to the municipalities that host the sport, it also will bring jobs to workers at the facilities hosting the events, and provide entertainment to those who enjoy the sport. Economic projection from the XL Center alone estimate a spin-off of revenues for hotels, restaurants, parking etc. to the city at around

\$750,000 or more. The XL Center estimates that the 5% revenue to the state could be as high as \$350,000 per XL event. Costs to host events are passed on to the promoters so the impact to the state is negligible.

New York and Connecticut are the only two states that disallow the sport and truly remain unregulated, and it is time for the Connecticut to catch up to the rest of the country.

Finally, this bill will ensure safety in a popular sport that is being conducted now in this state with no regulation.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify and respectfully request passage of SB 326.