



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, distinguished members of the Commerce Committee; for the record, I am Representative Paul Davis (117th Assembly District) serving Orange, West Haven and Milford.

I come before you today to give testimony in support of three bills. 5016 "An Act Authorizing Bonds of The State for the City of West Haven for The West Haven Arts Center", 5458 "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Phase II of the Streetscaping Project In the City of West Haven" and 527 "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Milford-Orange YMCA."

The City of West Haven purchased the Masonic Temple in West Haven for use as a Cultural Arts Center several years ago and to be a focal point in its plans for downtown revitalization. Located one block from the West Haven's historic center, the site is ideally suited for this purpose in that it is easily accessible and will be an attraction for Connecticut residents and tourists alike. The city has worked on funding from many sources in order to continue the restoration work on the building.

The streetscaping project is also part of this revitalization effort and will continue in making the city a more attractive destination for businesses and shoppers.

Like other communities West Haven is coming back from hard times. This addition to the downtown area would be a tremendous boost in helping the city get back on its feet.

The Woodruff Family YMCA has been part of our local community since 1959 and continues to play a positive and vital role by keeping our community active and offering positive programs for spirit, mind and body. The facility, however, must be enlarged to accommodate our expanding membership. The project will create numerous construction and permanent jobs as a result of the increased program offerings. In order to sustain the YMCA mission of healthy living the bonding funds are vitally needed.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to address you today and would appreciate your positive consideration of this bill.