



City of Milford, Connecticut

- Founded in 1639 -

Benjamin G. Blake
Mayor

City Hall
110 River Street
Milford, CT 06460

Testimony of Benjamin Blake, Mayor City of Milford

Commerce Committee

RE: Senate Bill 527 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE MILFORD-ORANGE YMCA.

Thank you for this opportunity to **provide support** for this important proposal before you today.

When YMCA Executive Director, Charlie Clifford, asked me to submit testimony to your Committee, I thought it would be an easy task of listing my many positive personal and professional experiences with the YMCA. After jotting down dozens of examples of “Why the ‘Y’ shines,” I was struck by how difficult it might be to make believable and convincing my extraordinary opinion of this most exceptional organization.

Since 1959, the City of Milford has been blessed with a fantastic YMCA which has positively impacted most every resident in our community. As a child I grew up with Y swim lessons and summer camp, and now, as a father of two toddlers who are soon-to-be All-American swimmers, I continue to rely on the opportunities that this organization offers.

But beyond my personal experiences, the YMCA is a tremendous regional asset for Milford, Orange, West Haven, Woodbridge and the entire State. From young kids, to families, to our seniors, the YMCA provides programs that promote wellness, and supports the health of our citizenry.

The proposal to provide funding to renovate the Y’s second floor will bolster wellness, enhance childhood education, and provide a real opportunity for smart regional growth. On behalf of all the citizens of the City of Milford, I wholeheartedly support this critical public investment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.