

Prepared Testimony of Glover Teixeira

In Support of HB 5277 – An Act to Legalizing and Regulating Mixed Martial Arts

To: The Honorable Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Public Safety and Security Committee

My name is Glover Teixeira and I am a resident of Danbury, CT. Although I was born in Brazil, I have lived here since 1999. Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today on a subject which is very important to me personally.

By way of some background, I am a professional mixed martial artist and I currently fight for the Ultimate Fighting Championship® (the "UFC"). My professional record is 20-2. I am undefeated in the UFC, have won my last 18 fights in a row and am currently ranked as one of the Top 10 Light Heavyweight mixed martial artists in the world. It is my goal to become the UFC Light Heavyweight Champion of the World. And I appear before you today in support of HB 5277.

I grew up watching the early legends of the sport of MMA, like Royce Gracie and Chuck Liddell, and from the time I was young and I knew that I wanted to become a professional mixed martial artist when I grew up. After many years of training, I earned a black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, an individual martial art, which I began training in when I was younger. I began training in mixed martial arts ("MMA") and had my first professional bout in 2002. Fighting professionally and training to be successful at MMA is what I do. It is my career. It is how I earn a living and how I support my family.

I have been privileged to work with some of the greatest athletes, trainers and coaches the sport has known. Through my many years of training, I have learned a great deal and MMA has taught me discipline, respect, perseverance, self assurance and the importance of being dedicated and hard working. I am lucky to be able to be a part of this sport that I have great respect for.

During my career I've fought in many states such as California, Oregon and Illinois, and in my native country of Brazil; however, I cannot participate and earn a living here in my home state of Connecticut. Just 12 days ago I competed in a UFC event in Chicago, IL at the United Center where I was the co-main event. The event was attended by over 16,000 fans and brought in a live gate of \$1.3 million dollars. Further, the event averaged more the 4.2 million total views and was the #1 program of the night on both broadcast and cable television.

Having been in Connecticut since 1999, I can tell you that MMA is a very popular sport in here as it is all over the world. Ironically, I can sit in my living room in Danbury and watch MMA on television. I can buy it on pay-per-view. I can watch it in restaurants and bars across Connecticut. I can go to mixed martial arts gyms throughout the state and train to compete in MMA. And I can attend live events nearby states and at the Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Casinos. But I cannot participate in a supervised and regulated live event here in Connecticut.

In conclusion, I would just add that I would love to have the opportunity to participate in an event someday here in my home state of Connecticut. Thank you again for your time and I would again respectfully request you vote to pass HB 5277.

Glover Teixeira

16 Cozy Hollow Road

Danbury, CT 06811