



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of
Representative Matthew Lesser, 100th District
February 7, 2013

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

Good afternoon Representative Dargan, Senator Hartley and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I want to thank the Committee for raising An Act Legalizing and Regulating Mixed Martial Arts again this session.

This bill will put mixed martial arts on an equal footing with boxing, allowing the thousands of MMA fans in Connecticut the opportunity to watch their past time without leaving the state. In addition, it will generate economic activity and should be revenue positive.

At a time of great fiscal uncertainty, this is a small step to help balance our state's budget.

This bill is very simple, it simply adds "mixed martial arts" to portions of the state statutes licensing and regulating boxing.

At the present time, Connecticut is one of only two states where mixed martial arts are not legal.

It is rare in this building, and particularly this year, for any industry to come before us asking us to tax them. Yet here we have a golden opportunity to allow businesses to operate in our state and add to our economy.

I thank the committee for its time and respectfully urge a favorable report.