

**TESTIMONY OF DON ROMOSER
BEFORE THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HB 5306, AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

February 24, 2016

My name is Don Romoser. I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield (“Club”). On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our **opposition to HB 5306, An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Office of Early Childhood Education.**

Our Club has been providing safe, after school programs for over 800 children and teens for over 79 years. The Club, chartered under the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, served over 10,000 young people between the ages of 6 – 18 in 2015.

I am compelled to testify because, if these recommendations are implemented, our Club will be faced with closing, limiting memberships and/or raising the cost of membership to a prohibitive amount. While our Club is exempt from child day care licensing for its after-school program, it is a licensed day camp and, like all 17 Clubs in Connecticut, is subject to the vigorous requirements of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

For the sake of our communities and our members, we must be allowed to continue to provide our extraordinary programming to at risk youth and to provide the safe, fun and nurturing environment that is synonymous with the Boys & Girls Clubs. I strongly urge you to reject the proposal of the Office of Early Childhood Education that would eliminate the Boys & Girls Clubs’ exemption from child day care licensing.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Don Romoser
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