



**Testimony on behalf of
The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc.
Before the Committee on Children
March 3, 2016**

Raised Bill 5303 – An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. (CRPA) is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to provide a network of support to our members through professional development and resources in order to enhance the quality of recreation and parks services in Connecticut. CRPA represents over 650 individual professionals from municipal, nonprofit and private, park, recreation & camp organizations, as well as over 130 of the 169 municipal park and recreation departments in Connecticut.

For more than 65 years, ensuring that children have the greatest opportunity to safely participate in physical activity as a means to combat the obesity epidemic has been central to CRPA's mission.

Therefore, CRPA supports Raised Bill 5303

More specifically, CRPA is in support of section 3 lines 71-74 of the proposed bill which would add the inclusion of at least 20 minutes of physical activity for students enrolled in afterschool programs to existing Department of Public Health guidelines.

CRPA believes that physical activity is one of the most important means to combat America's obesity epidemic. This bill would serve to that end. CRPA applauds the Children's Committee for recognizing this and raising Bill 5303.

Paul Roche
Chair, CRPA Legislative Committee