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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5201 AN ACT CONCERNING MUAY THAI AS A FORM OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

My name is Sergio Sierra and I am here to testify in support of HB 5201, An Act Concerning Muay Thai as a Form of Mixed Martial Arts. I am a resident of Glastonbury CT I train Muay Thai at Thornton Martial Arts, a martial arts studio located in East Hartford, CT.

This bill is important to me as it will help me compete locally which benefits us, the state and business in the area in countless ways. The list of benefits that come from training Muay Thai are countless, among the vast list I can tell you I experienced. I would mention self-defense, confidence, respect, discipline, and focus; these benefits will develop his skills and increase exponentially the benefits that we get from the sport. In addition to Muay Thai.

I am also an Instructor at Thornton Martial arts and I see the benefits that Muay Thai has in the lives of all those who participate.

As well as the benefits that translate outside of the gym such as increased confidence and keeping kids off the streets.

I also feel it's important to mention how positive the impact of tournaments would be for the community as these are a great way to boost the economy (by generating local business and stimulate Tax Funds) and put Connecticut on the spotlight as host destination and increase tourism.