

To: Members of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform
From: Chair Donald Weatherspoon, Unarmed Combat Commission
Date: May 23, 2024
Re: House Bill 5156
Position: Support w/ Department Request

The Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission (MUCC) supports the reforms to the Michigan Unarmed Combat Regulatory Act presented in HB 5156. As a type-1 agency, the MUCC is vested with the management, control, and jurisdiction of all professional and amateur unarmed combat¹ events conducted in this state. The MUCC believes that HB 5156 would accomplish all of the following:

- Increase contestant safety with greater commission oversight and prevent catastrophic injuries from the sports regulated under the act.
- This ensures the impartiality of the events in the state and prevents fraudulent fights by requiring the commission to oversee event official assignments.
- This would allow other martial arts disciplines not contemplated in the Act to compete in the state under the 3rd party sanctioning system.
- This would align the state's regulation of unarmed combat events with the rest of the country.

With these goals and changes to the Act in mind, Michigan will be better positioned to attract unarmed combat events to the state and grow the various unarmed combat disciplines, all while protecting the contestants and ensuring fairness in the sport.

The MUCC appreciates Chair Carter and the committee for bringing this bill package forward today. Committee members with questions can contact LARA's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs at LARA-LegislativeContact@michigan.gov.

¹ In the Act, "unarmed combat" means professional boxing, professional or amateur mixed martial arts, and any other form of competition in which a blow is usually struck or another fighting technique is applied that may reasonably be expected to inflict injury. MCL 338.3611(m).