I am writing in opposition to CT House Bill 5040, an act that would establish a 35% excise tax on all ammunition sold in the state of Connecticut. This bill has been introduced by State Rep Gilchrest of the 18th District. This tax is proposed to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts.

I have yet to see a plan for the funds raised that shows effective use for them. It seems the General Fund is the destination for this additional tax burden. How does that solve violence issues?

This tax makes it more difficult to properly train for self defense and enjoy hobby shooting with friends and family. Ammunition is essential to training with a firearm and becoming proficient with it. I and all legal gun owners hope we never need to use a firearm in self-defense, but should that need arise, one deserves and is required to be proficient with that self defense tool they have to protect ourselves.

This tax is a burden that merely serves to punish legal gun owners who abide by the law and properly purchase ammunition for legitimate activities. It serves to make it more difficult to be proficient with legal firearms. Not a single criminal will suffer this tax burden. But this tax will serve to make self defense and family sport less available to less affluent families. Apparently Representative Gilchrest believes family sport and self defense should only be available to the wealthy. I disagree.

To that I say NO. Stop the tax burden, stop the targeting of law abiding gun owners for the crimes of others, and stop the assault on the 2nd Amendment rights of Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,

A Southington Resident and Family.