Distinguished Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Dom Basile and I sit on the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL).

I respectfully request that you **OPPOSE HB-5040 An Act Establishing An Excise Tax On Ammunition.**

“To establish an excise tax on ammunition to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts.”

My first objection to this proposal is that it a discriminatory tax wrongly directed at those that are not contributors to the problem that it is addressing. In order to purchase ammunition in Connecticut a purchaser needs to produce proper documentation such as a pistol permit, an eligibility certificate, or an ammunition certificate. These credentials cannot be obtained unless a person has already been fully vetted, where a history of violent tendencies would be a disqualifying factor. Violence is perpetrated by criminals, and criminals are already barred from possessing ammunition.

My second objection to this proposal is that it is counterproductive to producing any funding for the State. Connecticut is a very small state. No one lives that far from a border. Rather than pay a combined total of a 42% increase in a legal product citizens will simply drive to a nearby state to make their purchase, and they won’t be alone. They’ll fill the car with friends and family and make a day of it. They’ll dine, go to events, fill up on fuel, etc. all out of state, and Connecticut won’t get any of the revenue. Multiply this by the hundreds of thousands of gun owners in Connecticut and this law would be fiscally detrimental to the State.
Wrongful shootings are contributed to suicide, criminal activity, and negligent discharge. Suicide is a mental health issue which this bill does not affect. Criminal activity, as stated above, is already addressed through other various laws, and negligence can be best remedied through proper education, again, a subject not relevant to this bill.

While maybe well intentioned, HB 5040, in reality, would do nothing to curb violence while acting as a detriment to overall revenue. I therefore, again, ask that you **OPPOSE HB 5040**. I thank you for your time and would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Dom Basile
Executive Committee Member
Connecticut Citizens Defense League