February 27, 2020

Subject: House Bill 5040
Public Testimony

I am writing to you in regards to House Bill 5040 which proposes a 35% tax on firearm ammunition. Please oppose this unfair and punitive bill. The State of Connecticut along with New York and California have the toughest gun laws in the country. As you know, these laws include a ban on a whole class of “in common use” firearms, magazine capacity limits, firearm storage requirements, firearm transport requirements, and many other firearm ownership/use requirements. Several of these laws are common sense laws that most CT firearm permit holders support. For example, Connecticut’s requirement to have a concealed carry permit to purchase/carry a firearm and to purchase ammunition is a beneficial, positive, gun safety measure. What would not be beneficial from a safety standpoint would be to substantially limit a person’s ability to practice safe operation and firing of their firearm. The proposed draconian tax increase on ammunition would limit the amount of practice firing that a lawful gun owner could perform. Like any activity, proficient and safe firearm use requires hours of practice and repetition. The vast majority of legal CT gun owners, own a firearm for the simple purpose of protecting their family, themselves, and their property. To properly do so requires access to affordable ammunition. HB 5040 is just another attempt by an anti-gun politician to destroy the 2nd Amendment. The author of HB 5040 states that money is needed for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts. The majority of gun violence in CT is perpetrated by illegal gun users in our major cities. Why should law abiding gun owners like myself be held responsible to pay to address this urban issue? This bill would punish law abiding citizens (once again), and would increase the likelihood of inadvertent shootings due to the lack of proper gun handling proficiency brought on by a reduction in overall firearm training.

I urge you to do the right thing, uphold our rights as citizens, and reject HB 5040.

Mark S. Bear
79 Hope Valley Road
Amston, CT 06231