I oppose HB 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

I am a federal law enforcement officer here in Connecticut working for The Federal Bureau of Prisons in DANBURY. This tax will negatively affect all law enforcement officers in our state. As a law enforcement officer we do annual firearms training but many of us go out to the range on our own time using our own funds to practice more than required to maintain proficiency with our weapons. It is smart to have our officers practice as much as possible to make sure they have their skills honed in for utilizing the firearms you entrust us to use in the line of our duties.

By imposing this tax on ammunition you are putting an undue burden on us that will cost us more to practice for our job and ultimately cause many to practice less and less for financial reasons. You really want the officers providing protection to the public to have the ability to maintain to most practice they can but this is not going to happen with the inception of this bill.

Rep. Gilchrest stated, “Why should the 84% of those who don’t own guns pay the same as those who do? The status quo is unfair to the 84% of those who don’t own guns and ammunition. So the logic is that because one owns guns and purchases ammunition we should pay more to curb the cost of the estimated $1 billion gun violence cost the state each year, that is just irrational thinking. If one was to pass taxes based on that thought process then why are people who don’t have kids paying the same amount of taxes to fund schools and school buses? Why are people who have jobs paying taxes to fund people on welfare and WIC? Why are people who have their own mode of transportation paying taxes to fund public transportation that they don’t use?

If there is a tax that should be imposed to fund something that affects all of the public (safety/crime related unlike the afore mentioned uses of taxes that are not universal to all citizens) then the tax should be imposed on a uniformly fair basis which affects all of the citizens equally. Everyone is always talking about equality but then turn around and try to unequally tax certain groups. HB 5040 is an unfair, unjust and irrational proposed tax bill that will have more negative impacts than positive.

Sent from my iPhone