Oppose: H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Ray Bevis, I’m the Legislative Coordinator for Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL). We are a grassroots organization with over 36,000 members devoted to advocating rights affirmed by the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Connecticut. We are especially dedicated to protecting the unalienable right of citizens to keep and bear arms, for the defense of both self and state, through public enlightenment and legislative action.

I’m opposed to H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. Proponents of this bill say funding is needed for private organizations to combat urban ‘gun violence’. Connecticut has one of the lowest rates of violence and the majority of violence committed doesn’t involve firearms. This financial burden must not be placed on the most law-abiding citizens of this state. The proponents have stated that there should be an exemption for law enforcement and municipalities, also claiming a $1.2 Billion price tag for ‘gun violence’ in this state. $767 Million of that is for “pain and suffering”, $41 Million of that is for “law enforcement and criminal justice cost”. These figures are misleading at best and the source of these figures are from private organizations.

This tax is a restriction and attack of civil liberties. No state currently imposes an excise tax on ammunition.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ray Bevis
CCDL Legislative Coordinator
legislative@ccdl.us
(860) 800-CCDL