To: Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

From: Amy Bieniek, West Hartford, CT

Re: H.B. 5040

Date: February 27, 2020

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Amy Bieniek and I am a resident of West Hartford. I am writing in support of H.B. 5040, An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition. The role of legislators is to keep our communities safe while also being fiscally responsible. This bill will do just that. A reasonable tax on ammunition could provide reliable, sustained funding for intervention programs operating in Connecticut cities and neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence.

Each year, gun violence costs Connecticut $1.2 billion.¹ National estimates suggest that averting a single gun homicide saves taxpayers an average of $464,000.² These costs associated with gun violence - including the costs of law enforcement, criminal justice, and health care - greatly outweigh the cost of investing in evidence-based preventative programs. And obviously, these substantial costs cannot capture the pain of losing a loved one or the trauma young people are subjected to and carry with them forever after witnessing a shooting.

We need creative solutions to end the gun violence epidemic in this country. I am proud to live in Connecticut which has long been a leader in the gun violence prevention movement by enacting sensible gun laws. Let’s continue to do everything we can to end gun violence. Please support HB 5040.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Bieniek
West Hartford, CT
