Good Afternoon,

I am writing to strongly oppose Bill Number 5040 (Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition).

Upon closer examination of the Congressional Report that State Representative Gilcrest references (Economic Costs of Gun Violence - 9/18/2019); one finds that Connecticut already has the 4th lowest rate of Gun Violence. Further review finds that 60% of gun-related deaths are suicides. While tragic, these actions reveal the need for better mental health programs and treatment.

If one were to set aside political ideology, it would likely make sense to address this problem through other means. Certainly means that would be capable of generating enough financial resources to have a successful impact on the problem. For example, the Pharmaceutical industry represents over $500 billion in annual revenue, while the firearm industry is one-tenth of the size ($50 billion). By burdening the Pharmaceutical industry with a similar tax we would be able to increase the available pool of money tenfold.

However, this great state is not short on opportunities to pay taxes. Creating an additional tax burden on already heavily thoroughly citizens to solve a problem for which we are the 4th lowest in the nation is very tough to swallow.

Sincerely,

Chris Bollin