I am writing to express my displeasure over HB 5040. The bill would make our youth riflery team much more expensive, as we already spend a large amount on ammunition per year. While you may not think the riflery team is important, it is just as important as any basketball team or football team for college admissions to the students. Schools like MIT have riflery teams, as well as the service academies. This year we are lucky enough to have a student admitted to the US Air Force Academy, as well as several that are looking at ROTC programs. None of this would be possible without the skills they learned in the riflery program.

The riflery program teaches safe gun handling, as well as mental focus, camaraderie, sportsmanship, and many other excellent skills. We have never had an injury more than a small cut from a door hinge in the 27 years of the program, while earning twelve state championships. As such we have a safer record than any other sport at any school. I urge you to reconsider this misguided legislation.

Paul Caginalp