OPPOSE HB 5040

A Bill to place a 35% tax on ammunition

When I first read of this proposal, I immediately thought how happy the thugs, robbers, mass murderers, and all rest of the “Bad Guys” would be after they herd of this. For they would not at all be affected.

Exempting law enforcement and municipalities from this tax will most certainly make them happy as well. But why would you exempt the “first responders” when the true first responders to threats of severe bodily harm or death are gun owner themselves, not the folks who arrive five to ten minutes later.

Now that leaves the law-abiding citizen to shoulder this tax. I do not mind paying a sales tax, but I oppose any additional taxes, let alone this astronomically high and ridiculous 35% excise tax.

Gasoline is to motor vehicles as ammo is to firearms. According to Wikipedia there were 36,560 Motor Vehicle deaths in 2018. Cars kill people. According to data collected by Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit that tracks shootings through media and law enforcement reports, there were 14,611 people killed by guns last year, excluding most suicides. This ammo tax is like saying that we should impose an additional 35% excise tax on gasoline and use that revenue to increase funding for motor vehicle death prevention and reduction efforts. This policy will have a concrete effect on the day-to-day operations of groups that are on the ground preventing traffic fatalities and helping survivors as well as the loved ones of those lost.

This is an attempt undermine the 2nd Amendment, and also questions whether or not it will prevent illegal activity. As Holly Sullivan, president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL), said the “35% tax on ammunition would put more people at risk. Lower income individuals who typically live in more dangerous neighborhoods will likely be priced out of the most effective means of gun safety which is target practice and developing safe handling skills.”

Oppose HB5040

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