Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing in today to request that you **vote no on H.B. 5040**.

As a tax payer in CT you keep adding tax after tax upon the backs of CT residents. Please stop. This tax comes with the altruistic ideal of putting the money to anti violence. That would be great if our government actually would do what it says it will do with the money it takes from us in taxes. Let’s not recreate the wheel, create yet another funding stream that needs to be managed. Then at some point it will find its way into the general fund. The general fund seems to be the catch all for so many other income streams that were started for one purpose, but lost their way.

There are already many ways for anti violence programs to get funding at local and federal levels. Attached to this testimony are some resources for anti violence programs. There are also many long standing anti violence programs out there that already have their own funding. Why not use them?

When looking at tax burden across the country, CT comes in 8th place. As a tax payer this is not where I hope to be. (see link for report) CT is not in the best financial situation. As the finance committee I would request that you actually work on the more pressing issues facing our state vs simply adding more taxes for the purpose of spending more money on a new program. Please fix our existing budget before adding any new programs to fund and any new taxes.

When I was a kid, it was law that the gas pumps showed all the taxes. Now it's a law that they can’t. I often wonder why that is? Perhaps people don't realize that they are paying 25 cents to Ct per gallon and wonder where all that money goes? I understand there is not simple fix. However I believe the responsible thing to do is stop spending money while trying to get the finances straightened out.

As always, thank you for your time and perseverance on these matters.

Sincerely,
Brooke Cheney
Harwinton CT

"It is critical to the economic health of every city and state to create an entrepreneur-friendly environment," said Dane Stangler, director of Research and Policy at the Kauffman Foundation. "Policymakers put themselves in the best position to encourage sustainable growth and long-term prosperity by listening to the voices of small business owners themselves." - CT by the numbers
Link for report on CT being 8th highest tax burden nationally: https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-highest-lowest-tax-burden/20494/

Funding sources for anti violence programs:

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) currently administers 19 grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 and subsequent legislation. Link: https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs
2019 justice.gov/ovw/awards/fy-2019-ovw-grant-awards-by-state#CT
How to apply: https://www.justice.gov/ovw/how-apply

This is a list of potential donors https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/crime-violence-funders

No deadline grants, apply at any time
http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/funding_no_deadlines.page

Resources for violence victims
https://safehousingpartnerships.org/key-approaches/preventing-homelessness/flexible-funds