To the Connecticut General Assembly:

I would like to submit testimony against proposed HB 5040. My name is Gabrielle DeBartolomeo, and I am from Sandy Hook, Connecticut. I was a high school junior when the Sandy Hook School shooting occurred, and no event in my life has had a greater impact.

I am adamantly opposed to HB 5040. Taxing law abiding citizens to pay for the actions of criminals who perpetrate gun violence is an unacceptable transfer of responsibility that would set a dangerous precedent for how we as a society respond to crime. I am personally outraged that our lawmakers have not come up with any better ideas in the 7 years since the tragedy occurred. The answer to this problem will never be to punish those of us who own guns legally. Find a way to restructure the budget in order to fund gun violence prevention efforts. We have one of the highest state tax burdens in the nation, you have the money.

I would also like to implore my representatives and the entire state legislature to please consider refocusing your efforts away from “gun control” (which has been shown over and over to be ineffective or to make the problem worse, at least the way our government has implemented it in many areas) and to instead focus on mental health. I would like to remind you all that the perpetrators of these mass shootings nearly always have a documented history of mental health issues. Please, for the safety of your constituents, stop punishing legal gun owners, and do something that will actually make a difference. HB5040 will not.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle DeBartolomeo
5th District
Sandy Hook, CT 06482