Stop H.B. 5040, a bill that seeks to infringe upon the constitutional rights of our law-abiding citizens. Selective and excessive taxes, such as the one proposed in H.B. 5040, only serve to prevent the purchase of ammunition and put a large financial burden on those that wish to protect themselves and families. There are several ways in which H.B. 5040 fails the citizens of Connecticut.

First and foremost, H.B. 5040 infringes on the rights of the citizens of Connecticut to have access to firearms and firearm materials. Our own Connecticut Constitution puts the right of citizens to protect themselves before the defense of the State and H.B. 5040 is a direct violation of the Connecticut Constitution.

Second, H.B. 5040 discriminates against the poor communities of Connecticut, which in many cases are the same communities where protection is needed the most. A 35% tax on ammunition would make it so that many families across Connecticut will no longer be able to afford to defend themselves, which will only result in an increase of crime across Connecticut.

Third, H.B. 5040 will directly prohibit the citizens of Connecticut from obtaining training in the use of firearms to be better enabled to protect themselves and their families. Ammunition is a requirement of training to use a firearm safely and therefore a 35% tax on ammunition now increases the cost of training by 35%. Many families across Connecticut, myself included, will not be able to effectively train to safely use their firearms.

Lastly, H.B. 5040 only affects law-abiding citizens of Connecticut. Individuals intent on committing crimes will not let any law stand between them and that crime. Gun violence is already illegal, and yet it happens. There is no shortage of cases in Connecticut where a felon was able to obtain firearms and ammunition illegally to commit more crimes. H.B. 5040 will do absolutely nothing to prevent these criminals from preying on the law-abiding citizens of Connecticut. Additionally, a review of the gun violence statistics in Connecticut will show that a majority of all gun charges in Connecticut are not prosecuted. If we are so concerned with gun violence in Connecticut, then why are we not prosecuting those who commit crimes with firearms?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opposing testimony regarding this bill. I hope you will make the right decision for all citizens of Connecticut and oppose H.B. 5040.

Respectfully,

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