February 27, 2020

SUBJECT: OPPOSE HB 5040

TO: Honorable Members of the Finance Committee

This testimony is in opposition to H.B 5040, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

It saddens me that the Connecticut legislature would seriously consider imposing a punitive 35% tax on the purchase of ammunition by legal firearm owners (HB 5040).

The stated purpose of the bill is “to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts” but it would seem that any meaningful effort toward reducing gun violence should be borne by the general public and not small minorities of the population such as legal firearms owners.

A long time ago a guy named Bastiat summed of the spirit of your proposed legislation very well, in my opinion. At the time, he said:

“When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men [sic] in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.”

Let’s not hasten the collapse of our political system by issuing edicts that punish small groups of honest, upstanding citizens.

Please oppose HB 5040.

Sincerely,

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