To: Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence and State Representatives 02/25/2020
Testimony for Public hearing for:

**HB 5040 - An Act Establishing An Excise Tax On Ammunition**

I do not support this bill. This bill will place additional financial burdens on responsible firearms owners in Connecticut and could create a discriminatory circumstance for individuals who are already financially challenged.

Firearms owners and enthusiasts in Connecticut already pay a high price to lawfully own and safely use their firearms.

More people are injured or die from alcohol related traffic accidents every year, but we don’t see increases in taxes on those products.

Connecticut received an A- in the 2019 Gun Law Scorecard compiled by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence which annually grades and ranks each state on the strength of its gun laws.

Overall Connecticut is ranked the third toughest state on gun laws; and its gun death rate of 5.1 per 100,000 is the fifth lowest in the country. The state has the seventh lowest rate of crime gun exports.

So with those facts in mind, and so many safeguards already in place, how do you justify a tax on a particular item such as ammunition, other than to penalize legal firearms owners?

The tax burden in Connecticut is already driving residents from this state at an alarming rate and this new tax will only add to the reasoning to leave.

Please reject this bill as it is a burdensome penalty on the backs of firearms owners.

Sincerely;
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