To the Members of the CT General Assembly and All State Residents,

My name is Nathan Friday and I have lived in CT my entire life. I attend the University of Connecticut and will be graduating in May with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. During my time here as a UConn student, I’ve been involved with the University of Connecticut Pistol and Rifle Club. (I am not speaking for the club with this testimony, but I am currently the President). In my experience with teaching dozens of young people from all over the country and world in the safe use of firearms, and the hundreds of hours I’ve spent making sure an opportunity like this exists for our students, I can say that imposing this tax will do nothing to alleviate the large burdens of accidental firearm injuries or deaths, and will act to prevent the young and economically disadvantaged from protecting themselves or their families in a safe and responsible manner. This state already imposes hundreds of dollars in fees to simply acquire a license, never mind the firearms themselves and the sufficient amount of ammo to become competent with a handgun or other personal defense weapon. In my admittedly limited experience, it takes hundreds if not thousands of rounds to build any level of true competency.

Additionally, the enforcement of this bill will only act to drive down state revenue as residents will seek to purchase ammo in adjacent states for lower prices and will be incentivized to avoid paying this tax and the CT sales tax on these out-of-state purchases. Cost to enforce such a law will likely not net more revenue than it will bring in (see the results of the plastic bag tax).

These practical reasons for my opposition pale in comparison to the monumental disrespect towards others’ property and the intolerance of different lifestyle and recreation choices demonstrated by the advocates of such a bill. It is this attitude of disrespect and nanny-state paternalism combined with excessive taxation that drives young people such as myself out of this state. Because of this attitude in the CGA and among some CT voters, I have decided to leave this state to pursue opportunities elsewhere. So even though this measure will not affect me, I still think it is not only practically ridiculous, but morally reprehensible and counter to the ideals that this country was founded upon.

Do the right thing and oppose not only this bill, but any further taxes on firearms, ammunition, or other personal property that rightfully belongs to the residents of this state.

Sincerely,

Nathan Friday
Rocky Hill, CT