In Opposition to HB 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

Dear committee members,

I, Alexandra Gizhitsa-Anderson, from Plantsville CT, am joined by 19,000 petitioning CT residents (full list of names and towns for download is available here: http://chng.it/fJQGrBjC) are writing to you In Opposition to HB 5040 (35% Tax on Ammunition). This petition is truly an all-inclusive group, which came together as a community to beg and plea with you: STOP THIS BILL.

This community includes residents who are men and women of color from Waterbury, Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. It includes LGBT members. It also includes police officers and fire department personnel from my town and beyond, truckers, metal shop workers from unions and CT factories. It includes senior executives from CT companies. It includes church-goers and members of synagogues around the state that love having law-abiding carrying gun owners as part of their organization. It includes victims of domestic violence, who have regained confidence and restored their lives after incredibly traumatic events through obtaining a pistol permit. It includes young men and women who are competitive sportsmen. It includes fathers, mothers and sons who are hunters and farm workers. It includes gun shop owners that worry that they will have to cut jobs and hours after residents start buying ammunition in another state. It even includes veterans and active duty military members from CT at a Canadian base signing the petition. It includes the most devastating group also: close to 300 residents who have left our state signed the petition, because you have priced and legislated them out of their properties, their rights and their freedoms.

I am also representing the Southington School Safety Initiative group which I founded. It’s a local Southington Group of 350 mothers, and we all urge you to Oppose HB 5040, and instead of taxing our bullets, please fund the school security WITH THE MONEY YOU ALREADY HAVE in a practical sense through applying a three-way security solution that consists of: Personnel, Security and Barriers.

We, as a group, have a lot of questions for you with the introduction of the bullet tax and a lot of concerns.

Do you really want safer communities or do you just want to have wealthy privileged anti-second amendment suburban activists help you win elections? Because it certainly feels like it’s the latter. I am heartbroken that you would want to tax someone like us to give our money to an organization that does nothing for safety, and is entirely a political entity, and though I am sure those entities are full of great people, they are also deeply misguided.

To those of you who know nothing about guns and simply hate them, please do NOT try to pass gun laws, because it’s dangerous! HB 5040 is dangerous! It will prevent people from practicing by making it cost-prohibitive, which makes shooters make more
mistakes, and therefore it will create more accidental injuries. You MUST be aware that you cannot even get a permit without practicing in CT. There is a reason for that – to be a safe confident gun owner you need thousands of rounds of ammunition just for practice! This bill will also make people start reloading which is not good! People will find a way around this, they **ALWAYS** do. Do you really want to create a black market ammunition in CT? How could you not think of the implications of this bill when you wrote it?

Please, leave law-abiding gun owners alone, we make our communities safer!

**Please, stop playing politics with public safety!**

Instead, please support groups like Southington School Safety Initiative. Help us restore police-community relations. Help us make school resource officers a part of the faculty at every school, help us expose our children to positive role models, and allow us, the parents to do our part by keeping our children safe.

The armed security personnel is at this building where you all work, so you can be safe. Our guns are at our homes, so we can be safe too. What you are doing here is disarming us and putting us in harm’s way. You are doing this to women like me, and all of the people I have mentioned earlier.

We have been asking you to fund technology, and to get illegal guns from the streets of our cities for YEARS. We have been asking you for school personnel training to curb not just gun violence, but violence in general, which is an issue unrelated to the object used. We have been asking you to provide a tax credit for safe storage of weapons. These are bills that exist today that will **ACTUALLY** help our communities be safe and secure. All you have to do is act. We have been asking this for THREE YEARS while you had the money for this, and we are running of patience from not being heard just to witness a person from one of the richest most elitist CT towns, introducing this insane radical dangerous bullet tax.

Please listen to us and all these people that are at the capitol weekly now, calling you all to reason, and common sense and humility. Please stop instituting punishing oppressive discriminatory policies in the state of CT.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Gizhitsa-Anderson

Southington School Safety Initiative, Founder

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