Subject: OPPOSE HB 5040

I OPPOSE HB 5040 (An Act Establishing An Excise Tax On Ammunition)

I oppose the excise tax on gross earnings derived from the first sale of ammunition within this state at the rate of thirty-five per cent per round that would establish an excise tax on ammunition.

If you were truly concerned about increasing any funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts you would already have done so from money within the budget of the General Fund.

Any money garnered from Anti-Gun efforts like this proposal will go directly into the General Fund and at the discretion of the Governor or legislators that money would or would not go into any more funding for “gun violence prevention or reduction efforts”, but you already know that.

The 35% ammunition tax would be placed on legal firearms owners and the revenue will be used to support anti-gun organizations while exempting law enforcement and municipalities from this tax.

Why would law enforcement or municipalities need exemption? What class of citizen are they who can escape these taxes? Am I of a less class of citizen? Legal firearms owners use ammunition the same way as law enforcement, to increase safety and accuracy by practicing their shooting skills. Does Connecticut want a less-safe atmosphere for gun owners?

Police officers enforce laws and on occasion can protect people from harm with or without the use of weapons. Police officers are not everywhere and cannot protect all the people all the time, especially those of us who may find themselves in imminent danger of their lives. Law abiding citizens need the critical practice with live ammunition the same way as law enforcement.

This is a horrible idea and could subject folks, especially poor citizens, from purchasing ammunition to practice shooting their weapons safety as this economic effect would decrease the amount of ammunition used for practice.

Decreased weapons usage due to the economic impact of this ammunition tax will directly result in less purchase of ammunition leading to reduced safety for law-abiding weapons owners.

Weapons owners will become less proficient with firearms because the unintended consequence of this law will be the reduction of firearms proficiency for the average law-abiding citizen.

Using ammunition for practice allows people to become comfortable with their guns and is critical to gun safety. It takes thousands of rounds of ammunition and constant practice to sustain gun safety levels. Thousands of rounds of ammunition will soar safety costs to unacceptable levels, thus reducing gun safety to unacceptable levels.
Connecticut law already prohibits the sale of ammunition and weapons to criminals therefore this act would tax law-abiding citizens, not criminals. Exactly what types of “gun violence prevention” or “reduction efforts” are we talking about here? Exactly where and who would this money go to? In my opinion it would go directly into the hands of Anti 2nd Amendment proponents in efforts to take away our guns. This is a constitutional disgrace and un-American overreach by Connecticut legislators to restrict the use of legal ammunition from legal firearm owners.

This is a punishing law targeting law abiding citizens and is a gross abuse of power of taxation.

We have a Constitutionally Guaranteed Right to keep and bear arms and that includes the absolute right to the use of ammunition in order to exercise our Freedom. Excise taxes on ammunition will limit the exercise and expression of our Constitutionally guaranteed 2nd Amendment Rights.

The idea of placing an excise tax on ammunition that is solely used in firearms and is essential to the actual point of using a gun for protection is repugnant.

Constitutionally protected rights are not hobbies nor are they “sinful”. Alcohol and tobacco are e NOT Constitutionally protected.

You are attempting to jeopardize my constitutional guaranteed right to the proper use of my weapons because of the need for ammunition to fulfill the functional use of my weapons. Ammunition. You are flagrantly attempting to casually introduce this excise tax as you’d see an excise tax on alcohol and tobacco, both having no absolute guaranteed right within the Constitution.

You are attempting to destroy one of my essential rights. I am guaranteed the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness and I don’t take kindly to those who interfere with these rights.

I want to keep my life and my rights by use of my weapons with ammunition that protect my life. In order to do this I must purchase of significant quantities of ammunition for practice. The use of ammunition being essential to a guns purpose must not have an excise tax.

Do not impose an excise tax on ammunition.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Gurchin
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