I’m taking time to tell you I think the excessive tax on ammunition bill is a very bad idea and I’m totally against it.

The poor, the working class and those seniors on a fixed income of this State who avail themselves of their 2nd Amendment Rights cannot afford this Excessive Tax. Nor should we.

I’m not sure I understand why this tax is being proposed. I have heard that it’s because people have died from gunshots and some additional taxes should collected and be used for its prevention. I’m all for prevention. What I don’t understand is why a special excise tax on ammunition?

When I think about preventing needless deaths in CT, I think about Alcohol and drunk drivers who continue to kill our friends & families at an increasing and alarming rate. According to a recent Federal study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (data from 2017) alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities, CT had the highest rate of any state in the country, at 43% of all fatal crashes. Although these rates are generally declining nationally, Connecticut’s rates however continue to increase.

When I think about preventing needless deaths, I also think about drug abuse. Last year, CT had the highest rate of drug related deaths in our State’s history, 1,200 deaths. Drug related deaths in CT were up 18% in 2019 – WOW… Connecticut now has one of the highest drug related death rates in our country. Drug related deaths account for more deaths in our State than both gunshots and alcohol combined – by far...

Do we not feel compelled to help those families who have suffered a loss from a drunk driver? How about from someone who was on drugs? Where are the excise tax Bills and prevention funds for all these residents?

When looking at deaths due to gunshots, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Connecticut ranks as one of the lowest in the entire country. The national average of 11.9 deaths is more than twice Connecticut’s rate of 4.6 per 100,000 residents. Only 5-states in the entire country have lower gunshot related deaths than Connecticut.

Every single day in CT, on average, someone dies from an alcohol or drug related death. Why is this excessive tax being targeted on law abiding gun owners when we have the highest rate of deaths from alcohol and one of the highest rates of deaths from drugs in the entire country?
Given the national statistics, it seems apparent that our residents are dying at a much faster rate from Drugs & alcohol than anything else – by far. Yet, you’re not proposing a special excise tax on any of those, are you?? I wonder why.

It appears to me that this Bill is simply an avenue for some powerful legislators to funnel more of our resident’s tax dollars to their anti-second Amendment friends and lobbyists. If this is true, YOU should be ashamed...

If prevention and saving lives is really the focus of this Bill, shouldn’t this be about the sky-high rate of drug abuse and alcohol related deaths in our State?

As for me, I proudly served in the United States Air Force for about 8-years. I have a valid CT gun permit that I have had for about 3-years now.

I go to the range periodically to shoot. The range has a Range Safety Officer who oversees that everyone is safe and that everyone there practices the highest degree of gun safety. They also offer courses to ingrain all facets of gun safety.

If your true goal is prevention, make it easier and cheaper for people who own firearms to practice, especially at a range. This practice helps law abiding residents be safer.

Heck, I feel safer at a range with all those safety minded people than I do driving on our highways.

So PLEASE - Stop the attack on my Constitutional Rights.

I ask that each of you stand up and vote against this Excessive Ammunition Tax Bill. Stand up for all of us law abiding citizens who live & work here and want to stay in Connecticut.

Michael Haines
West Suffield, CT