I oppose HB 5040, the ammunition tax bill, for the following reasons:

- It punishes legal firearms owners for actions by others.

- No one believes any money raised will reduce criminals from using firearms illegally obtained. For example the millions of dollars diverted from smoking prevention programs and the transportation fund. Any money raised by the punitive tax will certainly end up in the general fund.

- Estimates for the amount of money raised are too high, see the plastic bag tax estimates versus what was actually collected.

- Rep. Gilcrest has not shown any citation or proof as to the methodology used to arrive at the alleged cost per taxpayer for firearms deaths and injuries, the number is just political grandstanding and playing on the emotions of people.

- What other rights should be taxed? A voter tax to fund voter education programs? How about a tax on written opinions published to fund citizen education on social issues? If those taxes sound ridiculous than why does an ammo tax seem OK?

- It is clearly another attempt to increase the cost of firearm ownership for no other reason than to push a political agenda.

- If CT House and Senate were truly interested in reducing criminal use of firearms they would support increasing the penalty for stealing a firearm, funding the illegal firearms task force that actually removed illegal firearms from criminals, and a tax credit for legal firearms owners to purchase firearms safes. These are measures which were rejected by the Democrats last year.

Firearms owners in Connecticut are already subject to restrictive laws, some of the most stringent in the country, to reduce "gun violence". Is this bill telling us that those laws don't work?

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