Good evening,

My name is Mark Hansen, and I live in Shelton, CT. I am a former special ed teacher, Seasonal Park Ranger for the state of Connecticut, and currently a Charge Officer of Security at Griffin Hospital in Derby. I am a skilled and avid shooter, firearms instructor, and safety officer at my local range. I have had my CT permit to carry pistols and revolvers for over 25 years. I adore and cherish my children, my family, friends, and loved ones. I care about my community, and I love my country. I treasure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I am here to express my absolute opposition to an unconstitutionally lofty tax increase that has been proposed on firearms ammunition.

You advocate to tax, restrict, penalize, hassle and infringe upon the rights of the vast majority of good, patriotic, honest, and law abiding gun owners because of the actions of a relatively few criminals and mentally unstable and irresponsible people who commit violent crimes.

It is unjust, prejudiced, discriminatory, and unconstitutional to tax one's god-given, natural, universal, fundamental and constitutional RIGHT to self defense.

All living creatures on earth (animals AND plants too) have the natural right to defend themselves. You cannot tax or restrict the rose's thorns, you can't tell a bee that he can't sting or that his venom is too toxic. I say to you that you cannot legislate how, with what, or with how many rounds a man is allowed to defend his life and family.

Now, I get what you're trying to do. I understand that you want to stop crime or at least curb it. I get it. But you can’t predict the future. You can’t predict when a crime will happen or what a criminal will do. You can’t predict what an armed robber, car jacker or home invader’s intentions are. You will never stop crime or violence. Criminal behavior and violence have been around since the beginning of human history. We all know that criminals don’t obey the law. And criminals don’t go to the range to practice. Criminals don’t train to maintain proficiency. Criminals don’t have pistol permits. A lofty ammunition tax would do nothing to stop or to even reduce crime. Criminals will get their ammunition on the streets; on the black market. Criminals will steal ammunition. I can assure you that they absolutely will NOT go to the gun shop to buy their ammo because they don’t have a pistol permit! You will do nothing but make good citizens vulnerable and you will most certainly harm small businesses.

I’m here to tell you that the VAST majority of gun owners do not wish to be cowboys, vigilantes or tough guys. Most gun owners are not extremists or supremacists. They don’t wish to be aggressors, and they don’t wish for Civil War. They only wish for freedom, independence, and the right to protect themselves, their loved ones, their castle, their neighbors and community.

I encourage you to NOT go against the gun owners, but to join us. Come to the range, start a new hobby, get your pistol permit; it’s fun and exciting, and it’s a great skill to have.

What would you do at the Walmart, church, mall, theater, school, concert, night club or restaurant if a crazed lunatic came into a place to “solve his problems” by murdering innocent civilians? Would you try to run and hide, or would you fight back? What if you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong
time? Gun violence happens, but it’s not an epidemic as the mainstream media would have you think. (There are far bigger problems in society that are of epidemic proportions than guns.) But this is why I carry everywhere, everyday. I’m not fearful, and I don’t want you to be fearful either. But I want to be prepared, and I want you to be prepared also. Don’t think that it can’t happen to you. Do you think that the teachers and students at Sandy Hook ever thought they would be victims of a crazy person with a gun? How about the good people at the Walmart, church, concert, theater or night club? Nobody but a good guy with a gun can stop a crazy person with a gun. Just look at the recent shooting at a Texas church where evil was stopped by an armed citizen in December? What if nobody had tried to stop that sick and deranged beast? How many more innocent people would have lost their lives? What if more citizens had permits and could affordably train in their proficiency and safe handling of firearms? I tell you honestly that it would be a GOOD thing. Because I personally know a great many good citizens who own guns. I know good citizens who would protect you in the event of an emergency. I’ve been to rallies where good, honest, freedom-loving and patriotic citizens of all races, religions, backgrounds and sexual orientations have gathered PEACEFULLY, greeting each other respectfully as American brothers and sisters. These are good men and women who would fight and die for their freedom in America.

In conclusion, a high tax on ammunition would make going to the range prohibitively expensive for each and every good, law abiding, and patriotic gun owning citizen of Connecticut. This, and for all of the heartfelt, common sense reasons mentioned above, I urge you NOT to move forward with this bill.

Sincerely,
Mark Hansen
31 Meadowbrook Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
203-305-7957