To: Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

From: Katie Harris, Chester, CT

Re: H.B. 5040

Date: February 25, 2020

Dear Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Katie Harris and I am a resident of Chester. I am writing in support of H.B. 5040, An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition. I support this bill because there are vital intervention programs operating in CT cities and neighborhoods hit hardest by gun violence, but they need sustained, reliable funding in order to stop shootings. A reasonable tax on ammunition would generate funding that could go towards resourcing these evidence-based programs and make our communities safer.

The costs associated with gun violence, including the costs of law enforcement, criminal justice, and health care, greatly outweigh the cost of investing in evidence-based preventative programs. Gun violence costs Connecticut $1.2 billion a year. National estimates suggest that averting a single gun homicide saves taxpayers an average of $464,000. Of course, these tangible costs do not capture the pain of losing a loved one, or the trauma young people carry with them for the rest of their lives after witnessing a shooting or living in fear of becoming a victim of violence themselves.

We know that the gun violence epidemic in this country knows no boundaries, and reaches all communities and all people. We also know that this is a plague that affects our cities and communities of color at a much higher rate. If we, as a state, are serious about fighting gun violence, we must invest in the organizations that are on the front lines of this fight.

Please support HB 5040. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Katie Harris
Chester, CT