Testimony on: H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION

Subject: Oppose H.B. 5040

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

The Right to keep and bear arms includes ammunition, as it is an integral and essential part of any firearm, and all type of arms. The proposed excise tax on ammunition is an extreme infringement on Article First, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution.

I strongly urge you to oppose H.B. 5040. My primary objections to this bill are the following:

- Monetarily punishing law-abiding gun owners for the actions of criminals with a “Sin” Tax that will disproportionately hurt the poor, pricing them out of an effective means of self-defense and gun safety.
- Would not stop the criminal elements already illegally obtaining guns or ammunition; and would likely expand the black market as seen with other “Sin” Taxes, e.g. cigarettes.
- Redistributing money and resources from across the entire state, through known anti-gun groups, to four selected cities under the guise of reducing “gun-violence on the streets” while not addressing the root causes.

I hope that you will consider these points and oppose this bill.

Best regards,

James Hunt

Salem