My name is Shane KICHARD, I live in Cheshire Connecticut and I am strongly opposed to HB 5040.

The premise of this bill is not only dangerous, but equally as insulting.

The danger of this bill is in the fact that it functions as a wealth tax. The vast majority of individuals who exercise their second amendment rights are far from wealthy. In fact, it's the least wealthy among us who benefit most from our ability to exercise this right, as the wealthy have access to security services who safeguard them at their places of work and homes. Connecticut is a shrinking state. The cost of living and providing a sustainable quality of life is such that we are shrinking, and the lower class and middle class is suffering. This bill is a form of class warfare that will make the state less vibrant, and more dangerous as it pushes those of less means, of inner cities and impoverished communities away from the ability to reasonably pursue firearm training. The same firearm safety training that makes for safe and conscientious use.

This bill is insulting as it squarely places the blame for crime on the shoulder of the legal and lawful firearm user who chooses to exercise their rights under our constitution. We choose to train and use firearms because we too take issue with crime in our streets and have chosen to take a proactive approach to safeguarding our homes, our families, our coworkers and our neighbors. We with the ability to purchase ammunition in the state of Connecticut have already been heavily vetted through our local police departments and the state. We have paid all of our fees and have been thoroughly taxed in order to "earn" our ability to practice one of our core freedoms. We have paid our fair share, and do so at reoccurring 5 year intervals. We detest the promise of this tax pushing our ability to obtain ammunition for training and protection out of our law-abiding hands by making the ammunition financially unavailable. We detest the black market that this proposal will create, increasing the availability of ammunition to those with the most nefarious intent. We detest that your answer to crime is to feed it and make our communities more dangerous.

Guns and ammunition exist. Pandora's box is open, and no amount of feel good legislation will close it. The war on drugs created a thriving industry. Prohibition created a thriving industry. This bill is essentially a back door approach to the prohibition of ammunition, effectively barring all except for the wealthiest among us. If you in fact do believe that this proposal will have the desired effect then I suggest that you study the history of making an item unobtainable with a bit of a more thorough examination.

Lastly I recommend that you come down from your well defended offices in Hartford and visit your local shooting range. Pay a visit to Wolfs in Bristol, or Blue Trail in Wallingford or Greyson's in Milford. Spend 30 minutes or so and take in the demographic. You may or not be surprised to see the level of diversity that exist at every local shooting club, every day. All races are represented. The irony is that the same progressive legislators who make such passionate remarks in regards to the manner in which African Americans are treated by law enforcement imply that they do not need the ability to self defend, as they should simply call the police when faced with danger. The same police who according to you treat them with such unwarranted aggression. The ultimate hypocrisy in this bill is that its these marginalized people groups who will be most adversely affected.

We the people strongly recommend that you rethink your stance in relation to HB 5040 before we are given the opportunity to rethink our stance regarding your political future at the polls.