I strongly oppose H.B 5040 establishing an excise tax on ammunition. This is nothing but a tax on law abiding gun owners to discourage them from attempting to exercise their constitutionally protected civil rights, something the Supreme Court of the United States has determined is unconstitutional.

This bill’s purported purpose is to provide funding to end gun violence in our larger cities. It proposes to do this by taxing the one group of citizens who have nothing to do with that violence. To legally purchase ammunition in Connecticut requires the purchaser submit to a background check and pay a tax (fee) as a minimum in order to get a permit to purchase ammunition. These are not the citizens who are involved in any way with the scourge of violence occurring in our cities.

Further, the proposed bill does not specify who will be given the money raised by this unfair tax to “fight gun violence”. If a new state government organization is formed for the purpose, it will just add to the cost of state government without stopping the scourge of violence occurring in several of our larger cities. If it is given to private gun control organizations, it will just be wasted following their mindless pursuit of gun prohibitions while, again, doing nothing to stop the scourge of violence, as has been proven by every gun control law passed in the last century.

There are programs which have proven successful in other states where they have been implemented to reduce criminal violence of all kinds, including that facilitated by the misuse of a gun (usually by someone who is legally prohibited from owning a gun or ammunition, not a state permit holder). These programs focus on the people who are the perpetrators and victims of the violence, not on the uninvolved. Effective programs such as those should be supported by all citizens of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this ill-advised legislation.

John Kornegay, Ph.D.
Barkhamsted, CT