Justice Marshall stated that “the power to tax involves the power to destroy.” Representative Gilchrest knew that when she initially proposed a 50% excise tax on ammunition purchased in Connecticut. When that proved a bridge to far she has now come back with a 35% tax. Nothing that is supposed to flourish is taxed at 35%; Representative Gilchrest desires to crush the shooting sports in Connecticut and if she can transfer some wealth along to way to her chosen few then all the better. The proposed tax is estimated to yield $7 million per year. Representative Gilchrest seems to believe that this will go a long way to solving the issue of gun violence in our urban areas. $7 million, less than 3% of our state budget. If that is all it would take then the legislature has been negligent in not appropriating the funds years ago. But the money spent as Ms. Gilchrest desires will not solve the problems of our urban areas. The logic behind Ms. Gilchrest is that all gun owners/ammunition buyers share some sort of collective guilt for the violence problems in the urban areas. Following that logic I would expect Representative Gilchrest’s next piece of proposed legislation will be a 35% excise tax on automobiles and alcohol. After all, cars and booze are responsible for DUI deaths and all car owners and buyers of adult beverages share responsibility for those deaths. Representative Gilchrest’s true intentions were telegraphed with her first proposal of a 50% tax. It is not even an original idea on Representative Gilchrest’s part. This is right out of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s playbook. Only Senator Moynihan was intellectually honest enough to state the purpose of his tax. This is just another attempt to get the camel’s nose under the tent of the constitution.

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