State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

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Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
Testimony in Opposition to
House Bill 5040: An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition

Co-Chairs Rojas and Fonfara, Ranking Members Davis and Witkos, and esteemed members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 5040: An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition.

Our State already has an excessive amount of taxes, regulations and some of the most restrictive firearm laws in the country, and this proposed bill would be yet another threat to our small businesses, sportsmen, hunters and 265,000 law abiding citizens (many in my district) whom have state firearm permits.

My district borders Rhode Island, and it is full of several generations of avid hunters, sportsmen, and defenders of their homes and families. My district also has many small firearm and accessory shops that provide a great service to our residents. This 35% tax on firearm ammunition is a direct attack on the people of my district. If this legislation passes, many residents have already expressed that they will simply go to a town or two over in Rhode Island or other states to purchase their ammunition and other accessories. H.B. 5040 is placing these small gun shops and the greater local economy in immediate jeopardy.

I respectfully ask the Committee to please consider all these adverse consequences of passing this legislation that is targeting and will be extremely harmful to many people and small businesses in my district and throughout Connecticut. I strongly urge my colleagues not vote this bill out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep Brian Lanoue