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

Subject: I oppose H.B. 5040 encourage the Committee to oppose

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

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

This bill is inherently unfair by applying an absurdly high, punitive tax that will only be paid by Connecticut permit holders. By virtue of having a permit, the state has verified that the holder has no criminal record. The overwhelming majority of gun violence is committed by those without any permit. Thus, this bill would perversely exclude taxing the very people who’s behavior the tax is intended to combat. This would be like fighting drunk driving by taxing all drivers, unless they had a DUI.

Representative Gilchrest recently made the statement in a public forum that gun owners take on a “risk” by purchasing ammunition. Literally 10s of millions of rounds are expended every day, safely, by responsible gun owners. The risk comes from criminals, and this bill proposes nothing to disincentivize criminals.

Finally, I would ask you to revisit Title 29 Public Safety and State Police Chapter 529 Division of State Police Sec. 29-38e. State-wide firearms trafficking task force. This Task Force was highly effective in removing illegal guns from the hands of known criminals. Despite its success, it was defunded by the Legislature. Why?

I hope that you will consider these points and oppose H.B. 5040.

Best regards,

Tom Maloney

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