Testimony to the Finance Committee in OPPOSITION to the Democrats’ Ammunition Tax, HB5040, "An Act Establishing An Excise Tax on Ammunition."

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

I am a Connecticut voter with a Permit to Carry Pistols & Revolvers, and take this right and responsibility for safe exercise of this right extremely seriously. I have been practicing and competing in pistol and rifle target matches for over 25 years. Regular participation in practice and competition is the best way to maintain gun safety and marksmanship, which consumes hundreds of rounds of ammunition per month. This is something I consider important for all lawful users of firearms, but especially those of us who exercise our self defense right to carry in public spaces.

While the Ammunition Tax in HB5040 might seem like a way to discourage illegal gun use, or “gun violence”, it looks to me like a) a money grab, b) an effort to channel funds to anti-gun lobbying organizations, c) a punishment aimed at lawful, safe, responsible gun owners.

HB5040 will have the ill-conceived effect of discouraging safe and effective gun use, by citizens who require hundreds of rounds per month for practice and competition.

HB5040 will have virtually no impact on criminals who use guns to threaten, injure, or kill their victims, as criminals require only a handful of rounds for their crimes.

It is not the job of the legislature to channel funds from lawful citizens to groups actively working to undermine our rights under the Federal and State Constitutions. Our rights are not “sins” to be discouraged by targeted taxation. Remember how the “Poll Tax” was unconstitutional? IMHO, so is Ammunition Tax, but I’d rather you stop it now, than allow it to meander through the courts…

I also see a trap in HB5040: by imposing a punitive tax on ammunition, an incentive is created for out-of-state purchases of ammunition. What’s next, a bill making it a “crime” to avoid the tax by purchasing ammunition out of state, a crime to avoid an infringement of our rights?

Thank you for allowing me to submit Testimony in OPPOSITION to House Bill 5040. I urge the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee to halt HB5040, this punitive excise tax on ammunition, and stop it from moving forward.

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