To: The Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding.
Subject: OPPOSITION to HB5040.

My name is Richard W. Mayhew and I live in Plantsville, Ct. I would like to explain my firearm training history to you.

Connecticut State Police Academy, Training Troop #84 - 1974. 
Seven years as Connecticut Trooper with annual requalification with firearm. 
NRA Basic Firearms Course for Ct. Pistol Permit. 2009 
C.M.P. Small Arms Firing School 2016.

In 2019 I took a 4 day intensive program encompassing the legal and ethical parameters of the use of lethal force and deadly weapons by private citizens in defense of themselves and others within the mantle of their protection, including the use of the defensive handgun under stress with an overall emphasis on safety and fast, accurate shot placement. The first 2 days were live fire training, the next 2 days were 12 hours classroom each day on law, ethics, interaction with police, witnesses, court, de-escalation and escape from potential violent encounters to avoid use of deadly force.

This course was conceived and taught by MASSAD AYOOB. He is a police captain, expert witness in firearms and lethal force encounters, prosecutor, and internationally renowned firearms instructor.

This course cost me $800.00, plus AMMUNITION (500 rounds) to train with during live fire. The ammunition cost approximately $200.00. That is $1,000.00 before travel, gas, and lunch each day. All out of my pocket, TO ENHANCE MY PROFICIENCY WITH A FIREARM AND HOW TO SAFELY DEAL WITH VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS WITHOUT THE NEED TO USE DEADLY FORCE IN SELF-DEFENSE. August 1thru 4, 2019.

Also in October 2019 I took a Three Day Defensive Handgun Course created by CHUCK TAYLOR, who started The American Small Arms Academy. He is also internationally known for firearms training and proper self-defense tactics.

This course cost me $500.00 out of pocket! I’m now up to $1,500.00 of my own money to improve my training!

I have spent an additional $700.00 on training manuals and books, plus DVD Sets on Self-Defense Training.

If you pass this costly ammunition tax, I will not have the money to further my training with these nationally recognized firearm courses. I want to take The American Small Arms Academy 2 Day Intermediate handgun self-defense course this year which will cost $350.00. Also Massad Ayoob’s MAG-20 2 day course will be $500.00.

I want to continue training, so please VOTE NO on HB 5040.