I write today in strong opposition of HB 5040 and the proposed 35% tax on ammunition purchases.

An estimated 300,000 residents of CT choose to exercise their State and Federal rights to carry arms for self defense in this state. Statistically, these residents are the most law-abiding people in the state and also some of the most knowledgeable on issues such as gun violence.

Placing an excise tax on people choosing to legally and safely exercise their rights is not the answer to the gun crime issues that occur primarily in our major cities in CT. To solve these issues, the state should instead devote our currently available resources to going after the criminals who refuse to follow our laws and illegally purchase firearms off the street to use in crime and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law possible. By taking criminals and gang members off the streets, as was done by Mayor Giuliani in NYC, you will see a reduction in crimes and safer cities. Punishing the people who don't commit crimes is never the answer.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Matt Mazur
Enfield, CT