February 25, 2020

Dear Esteemed Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am in STRONG opposition to Proposed Bill HB-5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

Per the CDC, CT is the 6th safest state in the country concerning firearm homicides. During 2018, 186 residents were killed by firearms in a population of 3.5 million. More residents were killed walking down the street than by guns. Gun Violence in CT is not the issue here.

CT residents are already taxed beyond what is financially reasonable for most families. My own personal household is having trouble paying the day to day bills. My household income has stayed the same or risen slightly, yet we are unable to keep up most of the time. We as gun owners already pay additional taxes to fund the Pittman-Robertson Act. This bill targets the law-abiding residents who already paid a high price to the state in order to obtain a permit to purchase ammunition. This bill is discrimination, plain and simple. The definition of discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things.

The wording of this bill says that this tax will be used to increase funding for gun violence prevention or reduction efforts. Who is in charge of creating this? Who will be in charge of this money? Where will the funding go? How will this money be used? I find it ironic that you want to target law abiding gun owners of CT who are exercising a natural born right responsibly by trying to purchase ammunition to practice (remember practice makes perfect, is what we were all taught as children) and become proficient and in doing so makes us more responsible, to fund this bill if made law. WE are not the problem. Criminals are the problem. Just because you do not understand firearms, do not have the education about firearms, etc, does not in any way make your image of us being scary true.

I for one have had ENOUGH of CT Legislators demonizing me as a person when I have done NOTHING wrong, just because you don’t like that I exercise my 2nd Amendment Right.

I will state again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

Sincerely,
Michele McBrien
Beacon Falls, CT