I am writing to oppose House Bill 5040.

I understand the stated rationale for the Bill is to reduce violence. This ill-conceived proposal would do nothing about that. The problems of violence in our society are complex and difficult. A few causes that come to mind would be the breakdown of the family, sectarian violence and extremist ideologies, gangs, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, violent forms of entertainment and the demise of civility. Sadly, this bill represents yet another in a long list of proposals over the past 50 years that would unreasonably burden lawful and peaceful people, and fail to address the real problem.

A person purchasing ammunition in Connecticut must first have been investigated and found to be a safe and suitable individual. More than just a regressive tax, the bill would punish these law-abiding people for their pursuit of a legitimate activity, and victimize them for criminal activity to which they have absolutely no connection.

I hope that this bill and the simplistic, flawed thinking that it represents will be summarily rejected.

Respectfully,

Tom McCabe