Hello,
My name is David McClure, I was born and raised in New Haven, and currently own my home and reside in West Haven, Connecticut and I oppose H.B. 5040, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

I personally am a Veteran, having served 8 honorable years as a Military Police Officer in the U.S. Army, having attained the rank of Specialist. I served in combat for 16 months in Iraq with the 94th Military Police Company. I now am employed as a Armed Security Officer for a major corporation here in CT, and help protect over 4,000 employees in my facility alone each day.

The proposed excise tax on ammunition would literally make it unaffordable for me to further my firearms training and proficiency outside of work, as we only get very few training opportunities throughout the year at work, aside from our mandated annual qualification to maintain our Class 1 endorsement/Security Officers Guard Card (Blue Card). Missing out on this training time at the firing range would not be beneficial for any Armed Security Officers in the state, let alone those like myself who protect thousands of people daily. Weapons proficiency is a tangible skill, much like muscles. If you do not exercise the muscle, you lose it. In the extreme rare chance that an active violence situation were to occur, it may very well be the difference in engaging/stopping that threat, injuring an innocent bystander, or even losing my own life.

Beyond that, this excise tax would literally mean that many residents of lower incomes, minorities, etc. would effectively be financially prohibited from practicing their 2nd Amendment Right, and their right to self preservation/defense.

There are better ways to lower the crime rate, number of shootings, etc. But that would require making actual changes in our inner cities where the majority of these situations occur. We need to reach out and find out why gang violence is becoming so prevalent again, as we have been on a major decline in violent crimes for the last 30 years or more (per FBI expanded crime data). We need to fix broken homes, restore pride in our communities, and bring back respect for our fellow citizens regardless of their race, sexuality, religion, gender, etc.

Respectfully,
David McClure
Proud Veteran and lifelong CT Resident.