To whom it may concern,

Don't just gloss over this email. Take the time to read every bit of it and understand it. Gun owners are sick and tired of being treated like second class citizens. Do what is legally right and help put a stop to infringements of our rights. I am a resident of Connecticut and I am one of many law-abiding gun owners within Connecticut. I urge you to OPPOSE house bill 5040.

Gun owners in Connecticut already pay a high price to lawfully own their firearms. This additional tax will only further price out law-abiding citizens’ ability to train, participate in competitions, hunt, and lawfully defend themselves and their families.

Furthermore, this bill will hurt Connecticut businesses. Imposing a tax upon them will force them to pass this cost onto their customers. This will drive many small and medium businesses out of Connecticut or out of business entirely.

According to the Constitution of the United States of America:

Article 6, Paragraph 2

“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.”

Bill of Rights, Amendment 2

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

According to the SCOTUS:

"The Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to possess a firearm, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes" (District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570)

The Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding, and that this Second Amendment right is fully applicable to the States. (Caetano v. Massachusetts, 577 U.S. 2016)

The Second Amendment was incorporated against state and local governments, through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. (McDonald v. City of Chicago, 561 U.S. 742)

"An unconstitutional act is not a law; it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; it affords no protection; it creates no office; it is in legal contemplation as inoperative as though it had never been passed." (Norton v. Shelby County, 118 U.S. 425)

"Congress does not have the power to pass laws that override the Constitution." (Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. 137)
It is unconstitutional to require a precondition on the exercising of a right. (Guinn v US 1915, Lane v Wilson 1939)

It is unconstitutional to require a license (government permission) to exercise a right. (Murdock v PA 1943, Lowell v City of Griffin 1939, Freedman v MD 1965, Near v MN 1931, Miranda v AZ 1966)

“If the State converts a right into a privilege, the citizen can ignore the license and fee and engage in the right with impunity.” (Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham, Alabama, 373 U.S. 262).

It is unconstitutional to delay the exercising of a right. (Org. for a Better Austin v Keefe 1971)

It is unconstitutional to charge a fee for the exercising of a right. (Harper v Virginia Board of Elections 1966)

It is unconstitutional to register (record in a government database) the exercising of a right. (Thomas v Collins 1945, Lamont v Postmaster General 1965, Haynes v US 1968)

Voting yes on house bill 5040 is not only immoral, it’s a violation of our constitutional rights.

Thank you for your time,