February 22, 2020

BILL H.B. 5040

Esteemed Committee Members,

Thank you for your commitment to the welfare of the State of Connecticut and for the opportunity to address the committee today.

I am here in opposition to BILL H.B. 5040 AN ACT ON ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. Not only is this tax exorbitant, but it is punitive to a specific group of State residents who enjoy exercising their constitutional rights as firearm owners. This Bill also adds insult to injury by forwarding its revenue to non-profit groups which exist to take away the rights of the gun owner.

My father served 41 years full time in the State of Connecticut Army National Guard. He was inducted into the States Veterans Hall of Fame in 2010. He also was Commandant of the NCO School in Niantic and ran numerous volunteer services for State Servicemen, woman and their families. Now, at age 89, he has to take from his small savings to offset the cost to live in the State that he loves and served due to high taxes.

I am a retired educator and served in the public and private sectors in the State of Connecticut for 37 years. I cannot afford to live in the State that I served. All due to high taxes.

My youngest son served 4 years active duty USN. He qualified in firearm proficiency while in basic training. One night he called me from his base and thanked me for teaching him how to properly handle a firearm. I asked, “Didn’t you learn that in basic?” He replied, “No dad, you taught me all about firearm safety and that it’s a tool to be respected.”

I mention these personal stories to enlighten those that submit legislation like BILL H.B. 5040 that you are unintentionally affecting those who have dedicated their lives to the State of Connecticut and to our Nation.

To me the only thing that BILL H.B. 5040 will accomplish is to strip away the right of parents and others to properly teach and practice firearm safety.

It’s not a question of Left or Right, Democrat or Republican, but of a burdensome tax on a group of State residents that is either Justified or Unjustified, Right or Wrong. I fear that if this Bill passes it will eventually open a pathway of similar Bills that tax other groups of residents in the same manner.

Therefore, I respectfully ask you to vote “NO” on BILL H.B 5040.

Thank you for your time in hearing my testimony.

Respectfully,

Carl Moeller