As a responsible licensed firearms owner I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB 5040 on the following grounds.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution recognizes the right of citizens to bear arms. As a citizen of the State of Connecticut, attending a class in firearms safety is a prerequisite to obtaining a firearms license. Once obtained an individual may then apply for a firearms permit for concealed carry. The cost is quite substantial for fingerprinting, investigation at the federal, state and local level to obtain the license which is already considered a constitutional right. Periodic re-licensing is also required at an additional cost. This cost may well prevent responsible citizens from obtaining a permit. Hunters are also required to spend personal funds to obtain a hunting license and renew periodically as well.

My wife and I have both obtained our permits and have joined a gun club so that we might enjoy an activity together, that being target shooting. Gun Clubs across the state exist in which many of our citizens, your constituents, belong. They too are responsible citizens and gun owners seeking to enjoy their constitutional right. All of this being at substantial personal expense.

HB 5040 is yet an additional expense being proposed on lawful, responsible citizens in the State of Connecticut. It espouses to utilize this revenue to create further gun safety education wherein this education already exists. One possible offshoot from this proposed bill might also be a reduction in business by local gun shops who currently pay sales and other taxes to the state, as consumers may drive to other states where ammunition purchase prices are more favorable, thus creating a hardship on our current merchants and a reduction in revenue to the state.

Lastly, this action will in no way prevent the criminal element from purchasing ammunition and firearms as their activity is always on the black market. Only law abiding citizens will be adversely affected.

For all the previous reasons I've stated, and likely many more, I strongly urge you to reject HB 5040 and any modification of this or similar bills.

Respectfully,
Edmond V. Mone
Thomaston, Ct.