February 26, 2020

To the Committee:

I oppose HB5040, the excise tax on ammunition.

This adds an unnecessary burden to gun owners who have acquired their guns, permits, and ammunition legally and continue to do so. Gun violence is less likely a problem with those who are following the current legislation. Making ammunition this much more expensive for legal owners will likely decrease their ability to utilize their legally owned and operated guns.

This will likely increase black market and illegal procurement and selling of ammunition, which will increase issues with gun violence and crimes.

Gun violence prevention begins with proper education about safety and legal ownership—not with making the tools more expensive. Gun violence prevention is also improved with proper mental health treatments and availability in Connecticut. Perhaps taxing things proven to have negative effects on mental and physical health would be a more useful way to spend our money, such as increasing taxes on nicotine products and alcohol.

Sincerely,

Julie Nash, Ph.D.

Chester, CT