February 21, 2020
Ridgefield, CT

To: Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding

Subject: OPPOSE H.B. 5040

Dear State Representatives and Senators,

I am a responsible firearms owner and believe that reasonably priced ammunition is essential for frequent practice which translates into safe and responsible ownership, among other benefits.

As such, I write to strongly oppose Bill HB 5040 for the following reasons:

1. This Bill, despite its purported benign purpose, is punitive to legal and responsible firearms owners who have already undergone considerable expenses to exercise their constitutional rights (State and Federal) in accordance to local law. It’s analogous to introducing a Bill that “taxes legal and licensed drivers in order to prevent accidents or crimes committed by individuals who operate automobiles unlicensed”.

2. The Bill is also punitive to those CT residents who are on limited income and their right to defend themselves and their families will be put at risk. I urge you to consider scenarios where a lawful resident gets injured or loses their life because they were unable to purchase reasonably priced ammunition. Something like this would create lawsuit possibilities against the state, and we are not in position to pay millions of dollars in damages when they can be avoided in the first place.

3. Lastly, by equally significantly, this Bill is punitive to local businesses with the potential of shutting them down with people losing their jobs and livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration, and I trust you will act fairly and reasonably with the above in mind.

Regards,

Stavros Natsopoulos