2/26/2020

Hola todos,
Hello all,

As a fellow resident of New Britain, Connecticut, I respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 5040 for many reasons that pertain to us all, but that inadvertently primarily affects lower-income, people of color, living in our urban communities who make the rational decision to exercise their 2nd Amendment Rights to Keep and Bear Arms…in defense of themselves and the State.

While lawfully owning a firearm is a Constitutionally protected Right and not simply a privilege it is too often treated as the latter and in fact, within the state of Connecticut it has been well documented that owning a firearm is an expensive and often times unaffordable Civil Rights for many to access. As a lower-middle class, person of color, living in an urban community myself, I understand first-hand the importance of viable access to affordable quality firearms training and ammunition for the safety of our persons, property, and our families living within my community. As you may or may not be aware of quality ammunition, be it for practice, training, hunting, and/or especially for self-defense can be unaffordable and is not “cheap” in the slightest bit. As well as the fact that all ammunition is already taxable at a rate of 7% by the state of Connecticut and the federal government, making for this proposed legislation to be redundant and having been opposed by so many as you will see and hear throughout the testimony of other individuals, family members, and community advocates.

Please oppose this bill as it unintentionally targets and limits access to proper training/ammunition for law-abiding citizens, like myself, by adding an additional tax burden on our respective communities. It also has the potential for an increase in a lack of proper and safe firearms handling/operation related incidents, due to the potential for a lack of training because of the unusually high cost of exercising proper safe handling and costs associated with operating live ammunition which already seem to exists but which could potentially worsen with the passing of this bill. I take my proficiency, training, and protection of myself, my family, and my community very seriously and any additional taxation on ammunition would mean that I will not be as able to afford to practice using live ammunition and it would limit my overall ability to purchase ammunition in general, ultimately this along with similar experiences from others like me will lead to a deficit from a shortage/decrease in state tax revenue off the very ammunition which have already been taxed under the current Connecticut State tax law.

Again, please consider opposing House Bill 5040 and any other such legislation being proposed as it would greatly impact the urban, lower-middle class, and persons of color, such as myself that work to not only be able to feed our families but prepare to be able to have the access and
means to protect our families and our communities within the State of Connecticut, by any means necessary.

Muchas Gracias a todos,

Thank You all,

David Ortiz.