Date: 27 February 2020  
To: CT House and Senate Members  
From: Otto Neumann  
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 5040  

I want to thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony today, in written form. I know that you and some of your fellow legislators are committed to improving the safety of the state by lowering the number of gun related incidents, I think we can all agree that is a worthy goal. As a responsible gun owner, I feel it is my duty to obey all of the laws on the State of Connecticut and to safely store my firearms when not in use to support this goal.

I feel that this new tax, which proposes a 35% surcharge on ammunition, is very regressive and it is unfair to assume that all gun owners are wealthy and can afford this extra financial burden. This new tax will unfairly penalize responsible, lower income and/or retired gun owners who buy ammunition to train or shoot competitively. You are asking people to pay an even higher set of fees to exercise the rights that we are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. It is bad enough that Connecticut already imposes high fees and daunting paperwork restrictions to legally own firearms, but now you want to add to that burden.

If this law is implemented, the criminal element, who ignore our laws in the first place, will now be stealing ammunition, as well as firearms. Those that can afford to pay the excessive tax will become targeted by criminals as will the retailers who sell ammunition. You are inviting an increase in breaking and entering and other similar crimes. In the end, you are only penalizing people who have a legal right to own a firearm.

I also feel that this bill is asking the responsible, law-abiding citizens of Connecticut to finance “gun safety” education programs which have an end goal of further restricting our constitutional rights. I can only deduce that this money will be used to present one-sided, anti-firearm information to the general public using the vast reach of state and local governments and schools. Is this the right way to approach reduction of gun violence? No, I don't think that it is.

In closing, I am requesting you to please not to support House Bill 5040.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Otto Neumann  
Weatogue, CT