Good afternoon distinguished members of the Financial Committee. I am writing today in opposition to proposed House Bill 5040.

I believe that an increase in the cost of ammunition would further decrease the rate of legal gun ownership in the state. Making an already costly right even more expensive and unobtainable to those in poorer demographics.

The proposed rate of 35 per cent per round strikes me as rather high. I do not believe this to be an insubstantial amount. To compare, the excise tax on cigarettes is $3.40 per pack with the average pack costing around $9.50 or about 35%. Why should a right guaranteed in both the federal and state constitutions be taxed as much as cigarettes?

I can not speak to the legality of purchasing ammunition out of state, however it can be assumed that many would look to other nearby states such as New Hampshire or Rhode Island to purchase ammunition. Which would not only deprive this state of the proposed excise tax, but the sales tax as well. Connecticut is one of the few states that require permits for the purchasing of ammunition. Either of the two states previously mentioned do not require the permitting that this state does, nor do they require identification.

In summary I am opposed to proposed House Bill 5040 because of the unnecessary increase in cost of ammunition.

I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony.
Benjamin Palizza