February 25, 2020

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee;

Re: H.B. No. 5040

My name is Mark Pelkey; a lifelong resident of CT and currently reside in the town of Vernon. I’m 38 and raise my daughter full time on my own seven days a week. As a productive member of society, I believe it is important to play a role in our electoral and legislative processes. Especially concerning matters which have a direct impact on my right to self-defense.

I stand in strong opposition to proposed house bill 5040. Any proposal which aims to exempt a class of people (police and military) yet outclass common citizens due to affordability reasons, is a blatant disregard for the common citizens right to protect themselves, their family and property. How can I maintain my proficiency through practice if I cannot afford to do so? To insinuate this tax would have any positive effect as stated by Rep. Gilchrest is highly illogical. I haven’t seen a proposal for an excise tax on automobiles to fund victims families of those killed in drunk driving accidents or anything concerning enforcing our existing laws for prosecuting those responsible for said gun violence. Is there any other constitutional right subjected to such a degree of discrimination, scrutiny and disregard? View this as a civil rights issue. Ultimately, that’s what this is. If you can’t afford it, you don’t have the right.

Every politician should know the verdict of this case. Warren v. District of Columbia (1981). The Supreme Court ruled the police have no duty to protect you; only to enforce the law. The protection of self, family and property is the responsibility of the individual. H.B. 5040 makes it harder for those less fortunate; including myself. Single income households, parents working multiple jobs. 16,000 petition signatures wasn’t enough. Will this? I urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

Mark Pelkey
3 Rau St.
Vernon, CT 06066