02/24/2020

Dear CT Lawmakers,

I am in opposition to H.B. 5040 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION” which will impose a 35% ammunition tax on all my ammunition purchases.

I am not sure I understand the logic behind this bill but it is clearly a tax that will be imposed unfairly on people who have no involvement in the problem. Why would you charge law abiding citizens who have done nothing wrong so you can increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts? Isn’t this robbing Peter to pay Paul? It is not fair to subject law-abiding citizens who have done nothing wrong to a 35% tax on the ammunition that they need to enjoy and engage their sport. Whether their need is for sport, self-defense, hunting, or any other lawful purpose these people should not be subject to this repressive tax on their lawful activity.

If you add the 6.35% tax we already pay this bill would create a combined tax of 42.35% percent on every box of ammunition sold. That is an outrageous amount of money we would have to pay for ammunition, if this bill is approved. I am concerned with lawmakers who seem to think it is easy to impose a tax like this on a group of people who have no real representation in our state government. Where does this end? Why are we being punished for a problem we didn’t create and for an approach we don’t agree with? Why don’t you let the people who think their approach to gun violence and reduction is the right approach raise their own money just like everyone else does? Should we tax the Connecticut taxpayers for human and sex trafficking prevention also? This is actually a much more serious problem and what you are addressing pales in comparison to it. You see we have quite a few issues in this country that need to be solved but moving money from one part of the population to another is not the right approach nor is it based on choice. It’s simply someone in power deciding they want to fund another party by taxing law abiding citizens on doing something they enjoy and who have done nothing to contribute to the problem they are being taxed for.
This is not the job nor the role of government this is why we have created other sectors in our economy, so people have a choice as to how we solve social issues.

With this bill CT Lawmakers put none of their own money into championing a cause they say is vitally needed and then penalize law-abiding citizens, who have done nothing wrong, for it. Where is the commitment to change when there is no personal sacrifice? Can you tell me what other group in Connecticut is being taxed to reduce gun violence? I would venture to say the answer is “None.”

To state clearly once again, I am opposed to this repressive tax on lawful and law-abiding gun owners to pay to solve a problem we did not create.

Thank you for your time,

Richard M. Pfohl

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