To whom it may concern,

First let me say, that I vehemently OPPOSE HB 5040 35% AMMUNITION TAX.

Unfortunately we here in CT have members within our State Government who honestly believe that by instituting a 35% Excise Tax on Ammunition, that this will somehow deter Urban Gun Violence. This belief unfortunately is a false and absolutely absurd belief. Those individuals who believe this Excise Tax is an answer to this problem, need to understand something. The only people who will be affected by this Tax are not the Criminals, who ARE the perpetrators of these deaths, but instead the LAW ABIDING gun owners.

Since the beginning of time there has been two things on this Earth that are factual. Those two things are Good and Evil. Unfortunately for those of us who are good, we ultimately always pay the price, for those who are evil, in more ways than one and here is a PRIME EXAMPLE, with this Excise Tax.

Somehow Senator Gilchrist, you ma'am and others who believe, by instituting a 35% Excise Tax on Ammunition, that this will bring a halt to gun violence. Please explain to me/us how you believe taxing law abiding gun owners, who respect both Law and Life will stop evil criminals from killing people, PLEASE! My guess is that you can't, because you ALL know that it won't! But, what we do know is that we ALREADY have countless Bills on the books to go after these evil people who don't respect the law or life, don't we? So, why aren't we using these laws to go up against these criminals? What are you all AFRAID of? Why are you afraid to actually put these criminals who have committed crimes with a gun, in prison where they belong?

We ALL know that murder is illegal and punishable. But we also know, yes ALL OF US, know that many of these criminals, that are brought up on murder charges by way of a gun, have their charges dismissed, nollied or their attorney's make a backroom deal for a lesser charge! Why Senator Gilchrist is that and how is this the fault of WE, the Law Abiding Gun Owner's/Citizens? You are coming after us with this ludicrous tax all while those who are actually the ones committing these deaths, the criminals, are right back out on the streets to reek havoc, sometimes worse than the last time. In the end, the criminals win and the the law abiding citizens lose.

I and many other law abiding gun owners are not the CRIMINAL here, Senator Gilchrist! In fact many of our law abiding gun owners here in CT are Law Enforcement Officer's, First Responders, hard working men and women, that respect the weapon of choice, respect the law and respect life! The Criminals ma'am, DO NOT respect the weapon, or the law and they damn sure don't respect the innocence of life! Yet when you suggest how to combat Criminals, you feel imposing a 35% Excise Tax on Ammunition is the answer, as if they will obey it! With all due respect ma'am, they DON'T RESPECT the law, so what on God's green Earth makes you believe they will this one!? Be honest with yourself and all of us here ma'am! Your intentions are not to stop the Criminals and Gun Violence. Your true purpose behind this ridiculous excise tax, is a way of chipping away at our Constitutional Right. If you truly wanted to stop urban gun violence, you wouldn't impose this ridiculous excise tax on the law abiding gun owners. You have claimed that it is a burden that we take on as gun owners. The burden ma'am is not being a gun owner. The burden is watching innocent people young and old, die by the hands of cowards and knowing that you and others are trying to make it next to impossible to save others, with an ammunition tax like this one. That ma'am is definitely a burden!

Summary:
This is Taxation without Representation! This has NOTHING to do with the safety of people, like Senator Gilchrist and other Democrats want the people of CT to believe. Because if it were truly about protecting innocent lives, then they would be going after the Criminals/Evil and not the Innocent/Good Law Abiding Citizens and Gun Owner's. No, what this is ultimately about, is slowly chipping away at ALL legal gun owners and our Constitutional Right!

You see, because of the Constitution of the United States of America, it is OUR RIGHT to bear arms and this is something that the Democratic Party has been against and is fighting diligently to take from the people. I'm sure that many of you will disagree, but deep down, you know I'm correct. Let's face it, many of these very same Democrats that were vying for the Presidency suggested or shall I say insisted on taking our guns away, why? They know full well that they can never do this, so what better way than to make it difficult, by chipping away a little at a time, making it impossible for us to defend ourselves against foreign and domestic enemies.

Instead of making it harder for law abiding citizens/gun owners to protect themselves, I say that our CT State Democrat Legislation instead starts talking about how they are going to combat the criminals, felons and murders currently on our streets and in our neighborhoods. How about you and the attorneys representing these criminals start by sending these individuals to jail and/or prison for the crimes they have committed! How about going after them the very same way you are coming after us! Why must we pay the ultimate price for that which a criminal has committed!? Why waste tax dollars on writing yet another Bill when you don't even uphold the Bills you already have on paper!?

Here's an idea for you Senator Gilchrist. If you are a criminal and you are caught with a gun in your possession you receive an automatic 10 years in prison, no parole! If you are a criminal and you use this gun in a crime, you receive 20 years and no parole. If you are a criminal and you kill someone or many, you spend the remainder of your life in prison and no parole!

For some reason Senator Gilchrist, you and others in favor of this ludicrous tax, believe that it's easier and more forthright to go after Law Abiding Citizens who happen to take their 2A Right seriously, than it is to go after those who HAVE NEVER and WILL NEVER respect the gun, law or life, EVER! Why is it that, on this Earth, that Evil always seems to prevail over GOOD? Why is it that we never see good wholesome shows and movies, yet everywhere we look their are evil movies along with sex and drugs!? One would think, that we would want Good to prevail over Evil, no!? But here in CT as well as many other States where Democrats have control, it's Evil over Good! It is the CRIMINAL vs the Law Abider. They are attacking law abiding gun owners/Citizens as if we are the criminals. We are not and this attack on us, has got to stop!

Senator Gilchrist and others in favor of this Bill, I OPPOSE HB 5040. I suggest that instead of coming after me and others that are law abiding gun owners and citizens, that you START doing what you should have been doing all along, as Law Makers and START putting the ACTUAL CRIMINALS behind bars where they belong! You claim that you are a law maker and believe in upholding the law. Then how about you start doing your job and start by upholding the laws against CRIMINALS before you come after the innocent, especially when it is our Right to Bear Arms.

Sincerely,
David J. Riccio
Southington, CT