Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Rojas, and other distinguished committee members

My name is Jonathan B. Roy. I am from Manchester, CT and I am a law-abiding citizen.

I am opposed to H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. This tax, or any proposed tax, on ammunition is not acceptable. Such a tax will place law-abiding citizens in The State of Connecticut at increased risk to be victimized by violent criminals. By decreasing access to ammunition to train, maintain proficient and safe use of their tools of self-defense, and to lawfully defend themselves against lethal threats, this enactment would put Connecticut’s citizens are greater risk. This would disproportionately affect the poorest of our citizens who are often at the greatest risk for being the victim of violent criminals. Simply put, this would make the already dangerous State of Connecticut more dangerous. Again, especially for those who are at the greatest need for self-defense.

In our state the law-abiding must already produce proof of their state granted permission to be qualified to purchase ammunition. The criminals that prey upon our citizens already step around this law. Adding a tax on ammunition will do nothing to stop criminals who already purchase their ammunition illegally. This will only serve to limit law abiding citizens access to lawful self-defense.

Further I believe that enacting this excise tax could cost the state money it already does not have to defend such a tax in court. In 1947 the United States Supreme Court ruled in Murdock v. Pennsylvania that a tax placed upon a right protected by the federal constitution was, upon it’s inception, unconstitutional and void. I find it to be unacceptable for our legislative body to engage in enacting a tax that we know to already be unlawful.

Respectfully yours,

Jonathan B. Roy