Testimony in opposition of:
House Bill 5040 An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition

Submitted By:
Ryan McCarthy
20 Highland Rd
Terryville, CT 06786

Good Afternoon,

I am proving this written testimony to express my strong opposition of House Bill 5040. I requesting all the members of the House to reject this bill which will put an unjust burden on law-abiding citizens.

Rep. Gilchrest’s bill will punish legal gun owners by putting an unnecessary tax on law-abiding citizens who have committed no crime. Firearm owners in Connecticut already pay their fair share in taxes/fees. Obtaining a firearm permit in Connecticut is a costly, time consuming process. To obtain your permit, you must pay fingerprinting fees, local fees, background check fees, mandatory safety course fees and a fee when you pick up your license. In addition to these fees, gun owners pay taxes when they purchase firearms, ammo, shooting supplies, hunting licenses and renewal fees when their permit expires. Adding an outrageously high tax on ammunition will provide an undue financial burden on a group of people for simply exercising a constitutional right.

Many articles I read in local papers or see reports the news which mention the majority of guns used in the crime were not obtained legally. If the House truly wants to curb gun violence, look to the criminals who actually commit the crimes, not law-abiding citizens. Instead of putting an undue/unnecessary tax on law-abiding citizens, focus should be turned to created stronger sentences without the opportunity of parole and immediate remand for repeat offenders of violent crimes.

Why should law-abiding firearm owners be subjected to additional taxation for a problem they DO NOT contribute to or condone?

Why is Rep. Gilchrest putting forward legislation against law-abiding citizens and not putting forward meaningful legislation that will punish those who commit crimes?

I STRONGLY oppose HB-5040 and call upon all the members of the House to oppose this bill as well.

Thank you for your time,
Ryan McCarthy