My name is SGT Trevor Kegley. I am a soldier in the Connecticut Army National Guard. However, I am writing to reflect my own personal opinions, and am not speaking in any official capacity concerning the military or the state. I am writing to oppose the proposed bill #5040, “An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition.” I am an expert marksman in the Army, and I consider myself well-informed on the history and technology of firearms. This bill can only serve two purposes; as a tax bill to increase revenue, or a gun control bill to legislate safety. I believe that establishing such a tax on ammunition would be ineffective as to these two purposes in several ways:

1) The state of Connecticut, in the long run, will lose more revenue than is currently received, as citizens will choose to relocate their purchase elsewhere. Therefore, it fails as an effective tax.
2) The state of Connecticut already enforces a necessary permit to buy ammunition. Such a proposed tax will be targeting only the citizens who have performed all of the legal and necessary steps to do the right thing. Therefore, it does not enforce effective gun control or prohibit criminality.
3) Although a high income does not necessarily preclude firearm ownership, the proposed bill targets lower-income citizens. Average rifle ammunition costs about 30¢ per round, and the bill calls for an additional 35% per round.

The proposed bill #5040, by its own purpose, will fail to generate revenue for the state, and will fail to deliver safety to the citizens. The state already requires a permit to control the sale of ammunition. The state already forbids the sale and transfer of warfare-grade ammunition (such as armor-piercing and incendiary rounds). The bill serves to target citizens unjustly. This bill also infringes upon the citizen’s right to exercise effective self-defense: Successful self-defense only results from practice, which requires familiarity with a defensive weapon and practicing with its proper ammunition.