Feb-2020

Testimony on: H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION

Subject: Oppose H.B. 5040

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose H.B. 5040. My primary objections to this bill are the following:

1. This bill unfairly targets the most law-abiding subset of citizens to punish them for crimes they have no responsibility for, while excluding everyone else, including those actually responsible for crime.
2. This bill disproportionately burdens lower and fixed income families.
3. This bill will actually work against gun safety by reducing the amount of training that responsible gun owners can afford. Practice and proficiency with a defensive weapon is paramount and should not be discouraged. The fact that the bill excludes municipalities and law enforcement officers obviously recognizes this principle.
4. For the thousands of competitive shooters in Connecticut, this tax would place a huge burden hindering their ability to pursue their pastime.
5. The tax would not deter a criminal or any individual from buying ammunition if they had violent intent.
6. As with most anti-gun legislation, it does not address the root cause of the gun violence in America today.
7. It provides another source of funds for Connecticut to squander.
8. This will become another incentive for individuals to leave the state due to the ever increasing tax burden.

I hope that you will consider these objections and oppose this bill.

Best regards,

Joseph Sasso
Stonington CT