Dear Rep. Gilchrest, 18th District:

I strongly urge you to withdraw HB 5040.

1. Your stated purpose “To establish an excise tax on ammunition to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts.” while perhaps well intentioned betrays your blatant disrespect for law abiding citizens of the State of CT that legally purchase ammunition.
   a. There is a right way and a wrong way to go about this. This is the wrong way. Please propose a more balanced, equitable funding plan if you want my support!
   b. This huge 35% excise tax is a punitive tax directly targeting law-abiding citizens.
   c. Ammunition is already heavily taxed with 6.35% CT sales tax with an 11% federal excise tax on ammunition. Adding the 35% CT excise tax on top of this would bring the total tax on ammunition on CT citizens to a whopping 52.35%. Refer to https://www.ttb.gov/images/pdfs/faet.pdf
   d. No class of law-abiding citizens should be singled out and discriminated against in this manner, no matter how worthy the goal is.

2. There is no mention of how “gun violence prevention and reduction efforts” will actually be done.
   a. Too much is left to the “imagination” as to how this will be enacted.
   b. Too easy for this effort to become mis-directed.
   c. No mention of the word “education” in the bill.

3. Taxing ammunition so highly could be counterproductive, reducing proper firearms training, practice and education. It dis-proportionately impacts the CT residents on the lower end of the income scale ... Remember the second amendment applies to us all!

Thank you ~ John Sobanik