Opposition to raised bill HB5040 Relating to establishing an excise tax on ammunition.

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

My name is Steven W. Chmura and I urge you to oppose HB5040. Part of a gun owner’s responsibility is training to make sure that he or she is proficient in the handling of the firearm. By placing a high financial burden on gun owners trying to do that is legislatively irresponsible.

Once again the law-abiding gun owners are under attack for their belief in exercising their Second Amendment rights. This Bill is not intended to raise money for gun violence and prevention as State Representative Jillian Gilchrest stated. The only reason for an insane 35% tax is to have an economic effect on purchasing ammunition. This bill unfairly targets one subset of citizens, one of the most law-abiding; to pay for crimes they have no responsibility for, while excluding everyone else, including those actually responsible for crime.

Additional, legal gun owners in Connecticut already pay a high price to lawfully own and safely use firearms. We must possess a permit to purchase firearms and ammunition. We are required to pay a permit application fee, renewal fees, have to be fingerprinted, background checked, etc. Additional tax is unwarranted. I am all for curbing gun violence, but taxing legally permitted Connecticut residents is clearly misguided, as it will not help reduce gun violence.

With this tax you enrich the black market and out of state retailers, and at the same time put out of business Connecticut retailers, thus further depressing Connecticut’s already POOR economy. This tax like all others will further push citizens to leave Connecticut.

Please vote NO on HB 5040.

Respectfully submitted,

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