Oppose H B 5040

This is an election year.
My name is Warren Stevens from Southington, CT and I oppose H B 5040. I am the CCDL liaison for the Southington Sportsmen’s Association and Bell City Rifle Club. We have a combined membership of 1,000 men and women, with spouses and families, we are a voting block of 3,000 people who oppose this bill and we vote 2nd Amendment.
The use of firearms by law abiding CT residents contribute nothing to the fictitious term of gun violence and we should not be taxed for it. Criminals commit crimes, not firearms, and they should be held responsible.
This ill-conceived bill is biased and will put low income, minorities and working-class people, at a disadvantage. People will not be able to maintain their skills in order to defend themselves and their families from crime. Representative Gilchrest’s bill will make people less safe.
The crime in our 4 largest cities does not equate to honest citizens footing the bill. Also, according to the CT Dept of Public Safety, over 70 % of gun charges are either plea bargained away or nollied in court. Why have more laws when current ones are not enforced. CT needs to restore the Gun Trafficking Task Force.
According to the CDC, there are 32,00 firearms deaths in the U S are declining. 60% suicides, 3% accidents, 4% justified, 33% homicides, 80 % of homicides gang related. That leaves 1712 deaths in a nation of over 328 million people. Your chances of getting shot in America are 5 millionths of a percent. This country does not have a gun problem. Also, according to the CDC and FBI websites, yearly, there are 480,000 smoking deaths, 250,000 medical malpractice deaths, 70,000 opioid deaths and 8-11 teenagers dying every day in this country texting while driving. Knives kill over 1600, beatings over 650, blunt objects almost 500 and rifles at the bottom of that list at under 400. Your chances of getting stabbed to death in America are 4 times greater than being shot. Recently Congresswoman Rosa Delauro secured a bill with $25 million for gun violence prevention. Firearms owners, and CT residents have been taxed and regulated enough. If more money is needed in this state, I suggest some budget cuts and fiscal responsibility for a change. We know from past experience that our tax dollars are often used for other things than intended.
Furthermore, this hastily concocted bill will do nothing to stop the criminal element, it will enhance the criminal black market. Revenues will go out of state, gun stores will suffer. This state already losing people and businesses, it is the worst idea at the worst time.
Lastly, there is no popular support for this bill, a petition with nearly 20,000 signatures against it has been generated and submitted, feedback on Rep Gilchrest’ FB page are over 90% negative. Supporting statements are emotional and non-fact based. Firearms owners in CT are outraged as never before. This is an election year and firearms owners will turn out in large numbers to vote and we will remember what happens here today. We will not be voting Democrat, we will be voting American.

Thank you,
Warren Stevens
Southington, CT.