Respected Members of the Committee:

I have been a resident of Brookfield CT for over 20 years and lived in Danbury, Stamford and grew up in Greenwich. I oppose proposed Bill HB 5040 concerning a tax on ammunition.

My parents met at the Westchester Gun Club and my grandmother was also involved in the sport of shooting. I am also licensed gun owner and now take my three daughters to the range to teach them to shoot and gun safety.

This proposed tax will be a burden on those who are trying to train and stay proficient and safe while using a firearm. It is possible you will create more issues with gun safety than you will prevent by stealing more money from CT residents for your undisclosed gun safety programs.

This tax is unfair to those who already struggle with the tax burden and cost of living in Ct and is also an infringement upon our Constitutional right to not just own, but to safely use a firearm. No ammo=no use.

Just as CT tried to collect more money through the plastic bag tax, this too will not create the coffer you think it will as many people will just go out of state to purchase ammunition. This will also hurt small businesses that would normally have that income. It will also hurt the ranges that will no longer have the same quantity of people coming through their doors to train. Does this state only think about big corporations or is it going to one day realize the hurt it puts on the ‘little guy’? Does anyone ever properly vet these bills? Does anyone care?

As a woman who carries for protection, are you really going to limit my ability to train and protect myself? How can another woman propose something that will hurt the many women in this state who legally carry in the event they need to defend themselves?

What happened to the 25 million dollars that were already earmarked for gun violence? This state has an issue managing its money. Until you get it straight you are not welcome to have any more of my hard-earned income for yet another program that will yield zero result or be used for something other than what it was intended for.

Vote NO on HB 5040

Suzanne Binelli

Brookfield CT.