Written Testimony Opposing HB 5040

James Sydoriak
Ellington, CT
February 24, 2020

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee –

My name is James Sydoriak and I ask you to oppose HB 5040. I have lived in Connecticut nearly all of my entire life. I am a retired Police Officer, a collector of firearms, and I am currently certified to sell firearms by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). I hold a valid Connecticut permit to carry pistols and revolvers.

I came here today to testify before you because of the financial burdens which this bill would impose not only on myself but also other law-abiding and tax-paying citizens of the State of Connecticut. Additionally, this bill would have a negative impact on the retail firearms facilities which do business in the State of Connecticut. And I feel that this bill would create higher costs of firearms training for law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, which would increase taxes on me personally. I also have concerns regarding the potential for denying certain law-abiding citizens of Connecticut the ability to train to defend themselves and their loved ones against violence or threats of domestic violence.

I recently sold a handgun and ammunition for use in that handgun to a single mother who lives and works in this area of the State. She had a valid Connecticut permit to carry pistols and revolvers, which indicated that she could legally purchase firearms and ammunition in this State. She had come to the establishment where I work, with her young child. As we spoke, I saw that her hands were visibly trembling slightly. This woman told me that her physical reaction resulted from a combination of being nervous, as this was her first handgun purchase, and her fear for the safety of herself and her son. She
explained to me that she had ended a relationship with her boyfriend, the night before. She considered her ex-boyfriend to be a violent person, and she felt the need to protect herself and her son from him in their home. She asked me to help her select a handgun and ammunition, saying that she had a limited amount of money for those purchases. I gave her advice about several handguns and types of ammunition, making an emphasis on firearm safety in the home particularly as to storage in the home with a child living there. That woman told me that she completely understood everything, asked me and I answered her questions, and was she was grateful for my help. She eventually chose a relatively inexpensive name brand handgun with a reputation of good quality, with safety features. She also chose two small boxes of good ammunition, saying that she intended to train with the handgun at a public shooting range. She told me that the ammunition was all she could afford at that time. I sold her those items.

In closing, this is just one example of many that I have personally witnessed or have been involved in over the past 11 months, where law-abiding citizens of Connecticut have said that cost is a main factor to purchase ammunition for use in their firearms as well as their decision on which firearms to purchase. One of my many concerns about HB 5040 is that the bill could limit law-abiding citizens of Connecticut in their ability to train in the proper and safe way to use their firearms for hunting, self-defense or simply to enjoy the sport of shooting firearms. HB 5040 would place an unfair burden on a select group of law-abiding, tax-paying Connecticut citizens, many of whom vote in our political elections. I ask that you oppose HB 5040.

Thank you –

James Sydoriak
Ellington, CT