25 February, 2020

State Legislature
300 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Reference: HB 5040
Subject: Opposition to HB 5040

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the current Act, HB 5040, currently being considered. This is a piece of legislation that specifically targets a single group and one that will have unintended consequences. Below is why

1) Firearm ownership is right, protected by our Country’s Constitution. This tax proposal singles out one specific group of individuals who exercise that right.

2) The tax is a 35% rate. This is so far beyond any other tax rate that it can only be viewed as a gun control measure. CT Firearms laws are already some of the strictest in the Country, why do we need more?

3) Owning, and operating, a firearm is very serious. Responsible gun owners, especially those who carry, practice regularly. This practice is not only for marksmanship, but also to ensure that they are familiar with this tool and that, heaven forbid it is needed, the use is controlled and deliberate. If you make the cost of ammunition excessive, this will cut down on that practice and thus make the firearms that are currently in use, less safe. Why do you think Police practice regularly?

4) Ammunition is already expensive. A tax burden, such as this, will truly eliminate whole demographics from being able to protect themselves as they deem fit. You will create a situation when only the wealthy can afford to protect themselves. I truly hope this isn’t a covert means to eliminate firearm use by lower income citizens.

5) There is language in this Act that suggest that money form the tax will go to anti-firearm entities. This would mean that you are taking money from firearm owners and handing it over to anti-firearm groups. That is another direct assault on those citizens who exercise their 2nd amendment rights.

6) CT is already one of the highest taxes and most restrictive states in the union. This tax, the income tax, the property taxes, car taxes, the sales taxes, the threat of tolls, the restaurant tax, the cremation tax, the carry out food tax and too many others to list is purely a pattern of our government taking and taking but not giving to those who contribute to the fund.
At what point is enough, enough? How can anyone who has sworn to represent the people of this state not see what these rules and restrictions are doing to strangle the citizens of this state and our local businesses. Maybe you do not care, but a large percent of the population does. Please do the right thing and oppose this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Todd Vetrano