I am Nathan Vieira and I would like to express my opposition to HB 5040. It is my firm belief that this bill would not only have serious negative effects but is also deeply corrupt, and considering the many issues facing the state, I don’t see why we are pushing for the public funding of lobbyists.

Firstly, let’s think about what demographic this bill would affect the most. The obvious answer is the poor, specifically those who live in bad neighborhoods. Although I live in Thomaston I went to Waterbury schools for much of my life, and many of my friends still live there. I can not support HB 5040 knowing how it would affect them and their families.

Low-income individuals are already working hard to overcome the hard-hitting and ever-expanding taxes in the state. Just think about single mothers in Waterbury, Hartford, or elsewhere who work long hours and multiple jobs just to put food on the table who may be unable to afford to protect themselves should this bill pass. Just imagine walking several blocks to get home late at night after being paid in cash. This scenario which is dangerous for obvious reasons is made even worse considering the human trafficking we’ve seen recently. The fact is the most vulnerable among us need access to tools of self-defense, and this bill would bar them from this necessity. In short, this bill would instead open up black markets, lessen the availability of firearms from law-abiding citizens, and empower criminals.

Secondly, I think it’s just plain corrupt that the political establishment in Hartford is trying to tax its citizens to pay their lobbyists. If this tax was being put into the general fund I’d argue we have a spending problem and not a revenue issue but the revenue from this tax doesn’t even go towards the deficit, it goes to anti-gun organizations. Hartford politicians should focus on real issues we face and should not put forward anti-freedom/pro corruption bills that have no place in the Constitution State.

Come election time, I will not support any legislators who vote for this bill and will do what I can for campaigns even outside of my district to unseat legislators who do vote for this polarizing, dangerous, and corrupt bill.