Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to the proposed bill HB 5040 (Bill).

Once again the law-abiding gun owners are under attack for their belief in exercising their Second Amendment rights. This Bill is not intended to raise money for gun violence and prevention in cities as State Representative Jillian Gilchrest stated. The only reason for an insane 35% tax on anything is to have an economic effect on purchasing or using something. That something this time is a firearm. Can anyone in the legislature honestly say that a criminal or who is not legally allowed to purchase, own or carry a firearm along with being able to purchase ammunition in the State of Connecticut, is going to worry about a 35% tax on their purchase of ammunition?

What Bill HB 5040 will prevent people from doing is:

- Training to learn how to use a firearm safely
- Families that get together to go to the range target shoot
- Hunting to provide for their families
- Purchasing ammunition from Connecticut firearm stores
- People from enjoying the sport of shooting
- Lower-income people from purchasing ammunition

The firearms community in this state is the most law-abiding and safety-conscious people I have ever known. I have taken many firearms training courses. The two things that are ALWAYS stressed throughout the training are SAFETY and RESPONSIBILITY.

Please do not let this Bill move forward. VOTE NO TO BILL HB 5040

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I know you will vote wisely with my above statement taken into consideration.

Best regards,
Robert Vieira
Milford, CT