Members of the Finance committee,

My name is Jamie Ward. I live in Bozrah, Connecticut and I oppose H.B. 5040, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

The Second Amendment is a right that we all have, regardless of someone's ethnic origins or sexuality. It is disheartening that you are attempting to add a tax to someone's right to self defense here in Connecticut. Connecticut residents are already forced to put out a lot of money to get a permit, which is a RIGHT and should not even need a permit. Adding additional cost on top of that is wrong. You cannot even buy one round of ammo without a permit. Someone's economic status should not define their level of constitutional rights.

Connecticut was designated the Constitution State by the General Assembly in 1959. But we have forgotten our history here is a few relevant bits of the constitution of Connecticut I’d like to bring to your attention.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF Connecticut
ARTICLE ONE.
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
SEC. 9. No person shall be arrested, detained or punished, except in cases clearly warranted by law.
SEC. 12. The privileges of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, when in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it; nor in any case, but by the legislature.
SEC. 15. Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.
SEC. 20. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry or national origin.

By supporting this bill, and attempting to attach an outrageous excise tax, you are violating these rights and, albeit inadvertently, REDLINING. Lower income citizens, single parents etc will not be able to afford this. What happens when that single mom isn’t able to protect herself because she couldn’t afford an extra 35% charge on her box of ammo? Or that young family, in the projects, that can’t defend their home against an intruder for the simple fact that your excise tax was just a little too much outside their budget? This will also have a negative impact of residents training with their firearms, in order to be proficient, because burning rounds at the range will be too expensive.