Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

**OPPOSE: Proposed H.B. No. 5040 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION**

I am writing in opposition to Proposed H.B. No. 5040, which establishes an excise tax on ammunition “to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts.” This outrageous tax is purely designed to be punitive. It would serve to limit the rights of Connecticut Citizens by suppressing legal firearm ownership and deterring lawful usage.

I also believe such a tax would produce a disparate impact upon low income gun-owners. The ability to practice and maintain proficiency with a firearm would be seriously hindered if this tax is imposed. If a person of low economic means cannot regularly train with their firearms, a safety concern is created. This situation would be counterintuitive to the stated goal of this bill. Furthermore, “[a] tax is no less discriminatory because it is labeled as an indirect “excise” tax instead of a direct tax; whenever a tax’s implementation produces an actual disparate impact on a racial minority, that tax should be unlawful because it hinders a citizen’s economic rights.”

Additionally, this tax is anti-business as it could put Connecticut firearm and ammunition dealers out of business, further increasing the economic decline of our state. This would cause a loss of revenue to the general fund, as the current 6.35% sales tax rate already imposed upon sales of ammunition would be lost as well. Income and property taxes collected from such businesses would also be lost if they are forced to close down.

I urge members to vote AGAINST this bill.

Respectfully,

Kurt Weisheit

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