Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I strongly oppose any and all additional attempt to tax legally purchased ammunition for firearms. Being a "legal" gun owner is a tedious task in our state. We pay for safety courses prior to the application process, and then we go through background checks at the local, state and federal levels that include consequential sums of money to obtain a permit for the ability to legally purchase firearms.

Once an individual has finally passed their background checks and have been approved for the issuance of a state permit, there are then additional costs for a firearm, ammunition, a holster, cleaning supplies and a gun safe.

I cannot understand why a legislative committee in the state of Connecticut would seek to make it harder for people to safely practice with their guns by increasing the expenses. Our legislature should be doing the opposite. Connecticut would be wiser to make ammunition less costly by reducing sales tax on its purchase with the hope that legal gun owners practice shooting more frequently to improve their skills.

Since the Sandy Hook massacre these have been difficult years for the collective spirit of our state. I look forward to a day where there might be less division between gun owners and lawmakers. I truly and sincerely wish that those who seek to use the power of taxation to impede and infringe constitutional rights will reverse course and accept gun owners as decent and caring fellow citizens instead of adversaries who should be vilified.

Given that there are approximately 270,000 pistol permit holders in our state (with those numbers increasing annually), I am hopeful that enough legislators will reject this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony on HB5040...

Scott Wilson
38 Penny Lane
New London CT 06320

(Past President and Co-Founder of CCDL)