Distinguished Members of the Finance Committee,

I sit before you today in strong opposition to HB 5040, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

I live in an area where we can routinely expect police response times of up to 20 minutes. That is a long time to need to wait for support to protect my family and home from someone that intends to do us harm. I can’t imagine being in the situation where there is someone hurting my family and all I can do is call 911 and wait. For just a second I would like all of you to think about being in that desperate situation. We all hope to never be in that position of course, but I certainly feel it is better to be safe than sorry.

In order to effectively use a gun for protection we must all keep up our proficiency and we need to go to ranges and practice the skill required to use a gun safely. This tax will disproportionately affect poor gun owners and keep them from being able to practice as they should.

Criminals if they are focused on committing a crime will not be concerned about the additional cost of ammunition. I am also sure they will be able to find the ammunition out of state or on a black market that will be created by excess taxes.

This bill is really just an attempt to infringe on legal gun owners second amendment rights. It creates a SIN tax for something that is not a sin.

This will impact people that shoot for sport, people that hunt and the average citizen that just wants to protect his or herself and family. I am sure you all know someone that will be impacted by this infringement on our rights.

I strongly urge you to stop this bill in committee.