

The Right to keep and bear arms includes ammunition, it is an integral and essential part of any firearm, and all type of arms. The proposed excise tax on ammunition is an extreme infringement on Article First, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution. Oppose House Bill No. 5040.

I wrote a letter to Jillian Gilchrist explaining why I have the stance I do, and never got a response. I will repost that response here, as I am still wondering why classist, racist, legislation is being pushed by her. Here is the letter:

"Hello Jillian,

My name is Alexis. I am a citizen of Connecticut, and I have come across some very disturbing information, and it all involves this new bill you have proposed.

Taxation on ammunition is unconstitutional, and taxing taxation is just plain un-American.

In addition, it is classist and racist, as lower income families are often minorities like myself in this wonderful state and we cannot afford this tax on ammunition, which I am assuming is the ultimate goal. In order to attack the second amendment, you do not need to disarm the Americans, but make it impossible for us to obtain ammunition. We are aware of what is going on and the tiny steps being taken every year to infringe on our rights, hence why we had a huge rally in Virginia last month.

I've already tried e-mailing Rick Lopes about my concerns regarding the second amendment and how it "shall not be infringed". How every gun law this state possesses is an infringement. He responded with gaslighting and flat out lies, such as having guns in the home makes one less safe and puts our families in danger. That confuses me, because he himself told me he was a gun owner, so I guess he doesn't mind putting his family in what he thinks is danger.

I unfortunately am not stupid though. I know the statistics. As a UConn graduate, I know how to do my research. More people die from things like influenza, knives, feet, and fists than guns minus suicides every year. Again, this is all information from a government webpage. The CDC also shows that where guns are the most restricted, the most crime occurs, and the crimes are often gang-related involving guns. It is almost as if gun control does not work for criminals. Guns are not an issue, and taxing ammunition just makes it harder for people who buy ammunition legally to obtain it, much like every other obstacle Connecticut citizens have to pass in order to practice a right. In Connecticut, you have made the second amendment a privilege, not a right. A privilege that only those with hundreds of dollars to meet the requirements to obtain a permit (the class, the paperwork, being fingerprinted and photographed like a criminal, and actually purchasing the gun), and to obtain ammunition.

If you want Connecticut citizens to be safer, we need ammunition so we can properly practice using our firearms. If everyone is able to use their guns efficiently through thorough practice, there will be far less accidents, less than the VERY few we already have. Unless your ultimate plan is to disarm us, then of course you wouldn't want us to be experienced. If it isn't, then I encourage the bill to not be put through. Instead of only being able to afford to go to the range once a month, we'd be able to go weekly, or at the very least have more money to care for our children.

I truly hope you rethink this bill, and rethink others you may propose. I also would hope you realize what a law-abiding citizen is, and how there are no obstacles for performing something like murdering my own child so long as it is in my womb (abortion), but there are a million unconstitutional obstacles for me practicing my natural-born right.

That is very disappointing, and is partly why Connecticut has an alarming amount of people leaving the state every year, and we may be next. This state is so expensive that \$160,000 cannot even get us a decent house in a decent neighborhood with less than a quarter acre of property. I encourage you all to work on issues like ridiculous housing costs instead as the extremely high cost of living in this state can lead to crime considering people often resort to crime when they cannot pay their bills. Not having a

double tax on ammunition will not increase crime, on the other hand. If it does, I'd like the statistics proving this.

Again, please reconsider the bill to give low income and minority communities the opportunity to practice our rights. It would be a shame if you felt that we aren't as worthy as wealthier, whiter citizens and neighborhoods to protect ourselves.

I hope to hear from you soon ma'am"

Though Jillian did not take my words into consideration, I hope the rest of my representatives will. Unfortunately, Chris Murphy oddly does not supply his e-mail, or at the very least does not provide it easily despite him working for us so I will not be sending a copy to him, not that he would even consider my words anyway knowing his very anti-Constitutional stance on guns. Same with Ms. Jahana, but I was at least able to e-mail her via her website. Very strange that public servants are not being more available for their people. It perfectly explains why our rights are being limited; it seems we forget who is serving who, and who is paying who's paycheck. But that is why we have our second amendment, to remind you all in the government that the people are in charge of this country, not representatives, senators, and other politicians. That is why certain politicians want to limit our most important right, because it has become a power struggle, one that shouldn't exist according to our Founding Fathers who are most likely turning in their graves with each anti-gun piece of legislation that is passed.

My little brother and my mother were encouraging us to buy our first home in another state that is more respectful of American citizens and our rights, and both of them want to leave the state for the same reason. I am due in September with our third child, and we have twins who just turned two. They are both worried about what kind of condition our state will be in as more legislation keeps getting passed, as housing goes up, and as taxation has made living here almost impossible, and fear for our children and want them to be safe in a state where a tyrannical government is not trying to slowly gain its control. But I told them my husband and I refuse. We will stay and fight this, just like our Founding Fathers did. If no one fights for their rights, this will keep happening and it will move to red states like it already has. I admittedly watched from afar not caring as law after law was being passed while being brainwashed in our lovely UConn about how my rights somehow hurt this country, instead of focusing on the hundreds of other things that kill more Americans each year than guns. Now that I am a mother, am in the real world and have woken up, and I am determined to help my CCDL and Connecticut citizens get our rights back so I can carry and purchase a gun without being treated like a criminal and charged like I'm back in college.

This is may likely fall on deaf ears, I know the game and do my research and know those with an anti-gun agenda have ulterior motives than our rights and safety and nothing I say will sway that. I will still use my freedom of speech until more legislation is passed restricting that as well, as Connecticut also has anti-first amendment laws. Or until something happens where my words will be manipulated so I can be targeted somehow, hence why I must give my address to even e-mail Jahana even though where I live exactly is none of her business. This state needs to get back to the CONSTITUTIONAL state, and I will be one of the citizens who will help give this beautiful state its rightful nickname honor again.

Thanks,

Alexis Anderson
New Britain