

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today to express my concern against any bills that may increase the cost of sport shooting or hunting, or that inhibit law abiding citizens from participating in shooting sports. These bills do not properly address the issue of keeping firearms and ammunition from criminals or any person intending to commit a crime, without unneeded consequences on innocent people. I also oppose any bill that makes purchasing ammunition in bulk, online, or without a pistol permit illegal.

What I do not see, which shows the intentions of these bills, and the current discussion of Gun Safety, is a lack of Bills that push for government programs to educate people on gun safety, gun storage and of organizations to request help for preventing violent crimes. These bills treat law abiding citizens as criminals, removing any trust that they may have felt. We need to focus on Bills that treats the American people as a partner in stopping violent crimes, not allowing them to be negatively impacted like innocent by-standers.

The following bills I oppose, along with any new proposed bills that address the previously mentioned issues.

-S.B. No. 140 ***AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR FIREARM OWNERS AND SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION.***

-S.B. No. 781 ***AN ACT REQUIRING PRESENTATION OF A STATE PISTOL OR REVOLVER PERMIT TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION.***

-H.B. No. 6216 ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS, ASSAULT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION.***

-H.B. No. 6244 ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF LONG GUNS AND LONG GUN AMMUNITION.***

I actively participate in sport shooting at Sprague Rod and Gun Club in Baltic, CT and Norwich Fish and Game in Norwich, CT. Currently the sport is a relatively inexpensive hobby for so many law abiding people like me, which is what we need in an economic time like this. I feel that the bills that limit the purchase of long gun and shotgun ammunition would directly affect my participation in the sport. Adding significant taxes on ammunition would not limit a criminal from buying a single box of ammunition to commit a crime. This would not stop a criminal, as they will pay any premium to illegally purchase their ammunition through any avenue available to them, if a law is placed to keep individuals like me from purchasing ammunition at a reasonable cost or access.

The exclusion of taxing ammunition only at ranges would also affect me directly, and other sport shooters like me. I purchase my ammunition in bulk when there are sales, such as the Olympic Shotgun Team fundraiser through Cabela's, which offer cases of Winchester Target Shells at a significantly reduced cost. I would not be able to help curb the cost by taking advantage of deals like this by adding a 50% tax on ammunition purchased outside of gun clubs or ranges.

I feel a side affect of the bill would allow clubs to price gouge ammunition, since sportsmen would have no choice, but to purchase their ammunition at these clubs.

I oppose any bill requiring Long Gun Eligibility Certificates to purchase long gun ammunition. The act of purchasing ammunition does not need to be as time consuming as purchasing a firearm. Stores would not be able to serve the volume of purchases that would be made. Stores like Dick's Sporting Goods already require recording of a driver's license when making ammunition purchases, and this should be all that is needed.

I suggest a focus be put on proposing bills that create programs that subsidize gun cases, and promote safe storage. This would give an incentive to people who would like to safely lock their firearms and ammunition, but cannot afford it.

I suggest bills be placed that make it easier for the relatives and friends and acquaintances to direct a troubled individual to get help in a safe way, that is not humiliating to them. These programs should be better advertised so every person knows they exist.

Moreover, these bills only affect the sport shooters and hunters that buy their ammunition legally for legal activities. Inhibiting law abiding people from enjoying sports that is a given right to them will not keep criminals from committing violent crimes. I strongly suggest the change of momentum from banning and inhibiting honest people to making it easier for the law abiding people to help prevent these violent crimes. Removing the trust from every law abiding person is not what this State and Country needs. Law abiding citizens should be considered a partner to help prevent these violent crimes, not an innocent bystander of misguided legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Ian Burlingham
Lisbon, CT