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Attorney General Brown Joins Multistate Brief in Support of Cook County, Illinois' Assault Weapons Regulations

Following Plaintiffs' Appeal, Coalition of 19 Attorneys General Urges Court to Uphold a Cook County Ordinance Prohibiting Assault Weapons

BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, as a member of a multistate coalition of 19 attorneys general, filed an [amicus brief](#) with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in *Viramontes v. County of Cook*. The brief urges the Court to uphold the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois' determination that Cook County's prohibition of the sale and possession of assault weapons is consistent with the Second Amendment.

"I will always support commonsense gun laws, including bans on assault weapons, as these are essential for safeguarding our communities and ensuring public safety," stated Attorney General Brown. "Implementing reasonable and practical measures to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of those who might misuse them and to reduce the risk of gun violence does not conflict with the Second Amendment."

The original lawsuit was filed in August 2021, when a group of plaintiffs challenged the legality of Cook County's regulations on assault weapons. In March 2024, the District Court ruled in favor of Cook County, but the plaintiffs appealed that decision.

The amici states' brief argues that Cook County's law properly promotes the safety and wellbeing of its residents, and that various Courts have concluded that reasonable gun regulations can comfortably coexist with the Second Amendment, as assault weapons are not commonly used for self-defense and, further, the ban on their sale and possession is consistent with our nation's historic tradition of firearms regulation.

Maryland's own law banning assault weapons, passed in 2013, was recently upheld as constitutional by the en banc U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

In signing the brief, Attorney General Brown joins the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawai'i, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

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