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**27 Republican State Attorneys General,  
with Gun Lobby Support, Urge Supreme Court  
to Strike Down Federal Rule on Ghost Guns,  
Despite Law Enforcement Opposition**

## SUMMARY

In the upcoming Supreme Court case *Garland v. VanderStock*, 27 attorneys general from Republican-led states have [filed an amicus brief](#) opposing regulations on “[ghost guns](#),” untraceable firearms that can be assembled from kits or 3D-printed parts without serial numbers. Their position starkly contradicts the officials' own claims of being “tough on crime” and is diametrically opposed to major law enforcement groups that are urging the court to maintain the regulation.

Ghost guns have emerged as a “[cataclysmic](#)” issue in America's ongoing struggle with gun violence. These weapons allow individuals to bypass background checks and obtain firearms that cannot be traced by law enforcement. From 2016 to 2021, there was a staggering [1000.3% increase](#) in ghost guns collected and reported to the Department of Justice. Law enforcement agencies across the country have raised alarms about the rising use of ghost guns in violent crimes, including [homicides, mass shootings, and attacks on police officers](#).

The [Major Cities Chiefs Association](#), an organization that represents police executives from the largest U.S. and Canadian cities, filed an amicus brief supporting regulation of ghost guns and stated that its proliferation “[severely hampers](#)” law enforcement's efforts to combat violent crime, terrorism, domestic extremism, and firearms trafficking. Despite this clear threat to public safety, 27 Republican attorneys general are fighting to keep these weapons unregulated.

Officials like Kentucky's Russell Coleman, who claims to have “[aggressively taken on violent crime](#),” and Florida's Ashley Moody, who touts her experience [prosecuting drug and firearm offenses](#), are now opposing measures that law enforcement professionals deem crucial for combating gun violence.



Many of the Republican AGs who signed onto the amicus brief are members of the [Republican Attorneys General Association](#) (RAGA), an organization that [helps elect](#) Republican AGs which has accepted over \$663,000 in donations from the gun lobby since 2021.

RAGA has been described as a "[pay-to-play](#)" scheme, offering exclusive access to Republican attorneys general in exchange for contributions. In a telling example, just two months after Smith & Wesson [donated \\$15,000 to RAGA](#) in 2024, nearly all its members joined a brief defending the company in a lawsuit related to gun trafficking.

**By opposing common-sense regulations on ghost guns, these attorneys general are directly contradicting the stance of law enforcement professionals and ignoring documented cases of ghost guns being used in violent crimes in their own states.**

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in *Garland v. VanderStock* [on October 8, 2024](#), the American public should be aware of this blatant contradiction between the words and actions of these state officials. A true commitment to fighting crime and protecting communities would mean supporting—not opposing—efforts to keep untraceable ghost guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic extremists.