

Thursday, August 26, 2021

The Honorable Alan Wilson
Rembert Dennis Building
1000 Assembly Street, Room 519
Columbia, S.C. 29201

The Honorable Steve Marshall
501 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

CC: RAGA Executive Director Peter Bisbee

RE: Calling for South Dakota Attorney General Ravensborg's Resignation Amid No Contest Plea in Fatal Crash Case

Dear Attorney General Marshall, Attorney General Wilson, and Mr. Bisbee:

On behalf of government watchdog Accountable.US, and in response to South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravensborg [pleading no contest](#) today to two charges related to striking and killing a man last year while driving [distracted](#), I write to urge you, as ranking members of the Republican Attorneys General Association (RAGA) and as your state's top law enforcement officials, to demand the resignation of South Dakota Attorney General Ravensborg.

Ravnsborg's criminal charges stem from killing a man while driving "[distracted](#)" on his cell phone after a late-night Republican fundraiser. There has since been strong bipartisan support for his resignation, including from Republican Governor [Kristi Noem](#) and large swaths of South Dakota [law enforcement](#). Republican state legislators have filed for [impeachment](#), and the Army Reserves placed a hold on his [military promotion](#). Yet, RAGA has remained silent on the matter and continued to support and promote the disgraced attorney general.

On the heels of the no-contest plea, it is time to finally join the broad spectrum of voices calling on the disgraced attorney general to resign. RAGA is Attorney General Ravensborg's largest campaign contributor by far, having donated over [\\$100,000](#) to his campaign efforts. Ravensborg's profile and [donation page](#) has also remained active on RAGA's website. The question is will you continue to support someone whose reckless behavior and disregard for the law cost a man his life.

It is indefensible that Ravensborg remains South Dakota's top law enforcement official while his victim's family is forced to watch this play out in public. Ravensborg and his legal team have been floating outrageous and offensive defenses, including suggesting the victim was [suicidal and threw himself in front of Ravensborg's car](#). RAGA's continued refusal to cut ties with the disgraced attorney general amounts to complicity in this shameful victim-blaming behavior.

As members of leadership within RAGA, you have a duty to lead by example, just as Attorney General Marshall did in 2018, when he [discouraged distracted driving](#) to his constituents. Why are you holding

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Attorney General Ravensborg to a different standard by allowing him to evade consequences for his actions?

By standing behind Attorney General Ravensborg as the top law enforcement officials of your states, you are sending a message that you believe one of your own is above the law and above consequences. Given the judge's wrist-slap [ruling](#) today that Ravensborg will serve no jail time and walk away with only \$1000 in fines, Ravensborg continues to avoid real consequences for his deadly actions. That is why it is more important than ever that RAGA make clear that that is not acceptable by pushing Ravensborg out of their ranks once and for all.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Herrig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Herrig
President, Accountable.US