



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Frosh on 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Decision in *Kolbe v. Hogan***

**BALTIMORE, MD (February 21, 2017)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today issued the following statement regarding the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision in *Kolbe v. Hogan* upholding the constitutionality of Maryland’s ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines:

*“The very strong opinion issued by the full court, which was joined by 9 judges, affirms the decision of a district court judge in 2015 to uphold the law. The ruling keeps in place an important piece of the General Assembly’s comprehensive 2013 legislation designed to protect Marylanders from gun violence, and confirms the principle that the Constitution does not prohibit states from protecting their citizens and communities.*”

*“The court held that evidence supplied by Maryland led to the inescapable conclusion that the assault weapons and large-capacity magazines banned by Maryland are ‘like’ the military’s M-16 rifles. It is unthinkable that these weapons of war, weapons that caused the carnage in Newtown and in other communities across the country, would be protected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.*”

*“In upholding the law, the court credited evidence that the weapons covered by the law were not only ‘designed for the battlefield,’ but also ‘have been used disproportionately to their ownership in mass shootings and the murders of law enforcement officers.’ Similarly, large capacity magazines ‘enable shooters to inflict mass casualties while depriving victims and law enforcement officers of opportunities to escape or overwhelm the shooters while they reload their weapons.’”*

*“The Maryland Firearm Safety Act is a common-sense law designed to reduce gun violence and make our communities safer, and it remains the law in Maryland.”*