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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Brown Joins Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence Through Civil Enforcement of State Laws

BALTIMORE, MD (December 13, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown announced that he has joined a coalition of 16 attorneys general formed to hold irresponsible firearms industry members accountable for their devastating impact on gun violence.

This multistate coalition, the first of its kind, aims to reduce gun violence through the coordinated enforcement of the states' respective civil liability and consumer protection laws, promoting public safety and saving lives.

“Gun violence tears our communities apart and threatens Maryland families’ safety. The companies that make up the firearms industry must do their part to help us address this life-threatening epidemic. This partnership ensures that if those companies prioritize profits over people, we will hold those businesses accountable,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “Our office will do whatever it takes to keep Marylanders safe.”

The states joining the coalition all share the same goal of holding members of the firearms industry—including manufacturers, distributors, and sellers—accountable when their business practices result in unlawful sales, gun trafficking, and other outcomes that put lives at risk. Many of the attorneys general joining the multistate coalition have pursued civil enforcement in their jurisdictions under their respective state law authorities. For instance, Attorney General Brown, on behalf of the State of Maryland, and District of Columbia Attorney General Brian L. Schwab, on behalf of the District of Columbia, [sued three Maryland-based federally licensed gun dealers](#) for public nuisance and negligence related to the sale of dozens of firearms to a straw purchaser who then trafficked the weapons.

The nation’s gun violence epidemic causes more than a massive loss of life and serious injury. A Joyce Foundation [report published earlier this year](#) on state civil enforcement efforts noted that gun violence results in over \$500 billion in economic losses annually in the United States.

The other Task Force members joining Maryland in forming this coalition are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawai’i, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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