

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 11, 2025

Mr. Brian L. Schwalb
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
400 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Attorney General Schwalb:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has primary legislative jurisdiction over the District of Columbia (D.C.), is conducting oversight of your office's weaponization of resources to pursue a political agenda. The Committee is concerned by your office's politically motivated lawfare, at taxpayer expense, in concert with anti-Second Amendment groups targeting highly regulated businesses operating within the law.

On September 3, 2024, your office, with the Attorney General of the State of Maryland, sued three gun stores in Montgomery County, Maryland, alleging the stores knowingly participated in straw purchase gun sales. These allegations ignored the fact that the transactions in question were reviewed by the appropriate law enforcement agencies (the Maryland State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives) who made no assertions that any transactions violated either federal or state law.

The complaint listed Everytown Law, a well-known anti-gun group and a leading coordinator of frivolous litigation against the gun industry, and Perkins Coie LLP, a politically left-leaning law firm,¹ as outside counsel for the litigation. The Committee is concerned that authorities delegated by Congress to D.C., and exercised by your office, are being abused in pursuit of a political agenda.

The 42-page complaint, filled with inuendo and unsubstantiated assertions, appears intended to destroy the reputation of legal businesses. As the U.S. Supreme Court repeatedly reaffirmed the Constitutional right of U.S. citizens to bear arms,² litigation intended to smother gun stores and manufacturers represents an unlawful attack on Second Amendment rights.

¹ Exec. Order No. 14230, 90 Fed. Reg. 11781 (March 11, 2025).

² District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Assoc. v. Bruen, 597 U.S. ____ (2022).

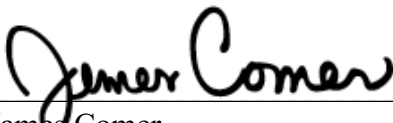
The assertion that the charges in question were devoid of facts is not just the Committee's view: it was the conclusion of the Judge who dismissed the case "with prejudice, and without leave to amend." The Judge's order to dismiss repudiated your work, noting, "the complaint is devoid of facts supporting this conclusory assertion"; "the plaintiffs also aver, without factual support"; "the complaint continues, again without factual support"; and "the complaint...ignores the fact...."

To assist the Committee's oversight of this matter, and to help determine if legislation specific to your office may be necessary, we request the following documents and information, as soon as possible but no later than June 25, 2025:

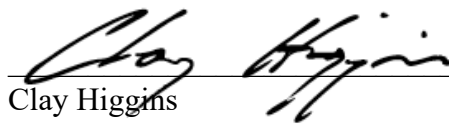
1. Documents and information sufficient to show how much your office spent on outside counsel in this case.
2. Any and all retainer agreements with outside counsel related to this case as well as all supporting documents, including but not limited to, the invoices filed and paid to Perkins Coie LLP and Everytown Law related to this litigation.
3. All communications between yourself or any employee of the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia with Perkins Coie LLP and Everytown Law containing any of the following search terms: "United Guns;" "ACEJ;" "Engage Armament;" or "Atlantic Guns."
4. All communications with law enforcement agencies, including any views or insights from agencies, including but not limited to the Maryland State Police and the ATF, conveyed about the transactions.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To arrange for delivery of documents or to ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Clay Higgins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Law
Enforcement

Mr. Brian L. Schwalb

June 11, 2025

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cc: The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Summer Lee, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement