

**March 22, 2021**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL CALLS ON U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CLOSE GHOST GUN LOOPHOLE**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Kwame Raoul, as part of a coalition of 18 attorneys general, today called on U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to close the loophole in the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) interpretation of the federal Gun Control Act. The loophole allows criminals, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers of firearms to evade commonsense gun laws and purchase component parts which can be easily assembled into unserialized and untraceable ghost guns.

“Ghost guns allow those who would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing guns to do so by evading background checks and other important safety measures.” Raoul said. “Beyond this, ghost guns lack identifying markers, which makes it more difficult for law enforcement to trace them in the event they are used to commit a crime. I urge the Attorney General Garland to eliminate this loophole so that these unsafe weapons cannot enter our communities.”

Ghost guns typically start as “80% receivers” (unfinished gun component parts that are not currently subject to the ATF’s regulations) that are often sold in kits without background checks. Currently, the ATF allows 80% receiver kits to be sold online and at gun shows throughout the country without background checks. These receivers are also not required to carry serial numbers, making them untraceable by law enforcement after being assembled.

[In today's letter](#), Raoul and the coalition call on Garland to issue a new interpretation of the Gun Control Act that will include 80% receivers in the category of firearms that require background checks and serial numbers. Raoul and the coalition argue that the ATF’s decades-old regulation is inconsistent with both Congress’ intent when it passed the Gun Control Act and with public safety priorities.

Joining Raoul in the letter are the attorneys general of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.