Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During your second term, you have already delivered historic wins for gun owners and veterans. Your executive order protecting Second Amendment rights directed the entire federal government to prioritize restoration of Americans' right to keep and bear arms. Your signature on the One Big Beautiful Bill eliminated the National Firearms Act's $200 tax on suppressors and short-barreled firearms and led the ATF to end enforcement of much of the onerous requirements in the National Firearms Act. Additionally, your Administration has also restored the firearm rights of hundreds of thousands of veterans, while promulgating a process to restore the rights of countless other deserving Americans. Veterans and gun owners are grateful for everything you have done to protect and restore our Second Amendment rights.

We write to you today about one leftover piece of Biden-era policy, the ATF's rulemaking governing firearms equipped with "pistol stabilizing braces." While on the campaign trail in 2024, you explained that this ATF rule "orders law-abiding citizens to register or surrender guns" with stabilizing braces, and you assured us that this Biden "disaster" would be "ripped up and torn out."

Unfortunately, despite this, the legal theories behind the Biden pistol brace rule are still being defended by the Department of Justice, including against the disabled veterans the stabilizing brace was originally designed to help. This is not a failure of your agenda, however. Rather, it is a problem that Attorney General Pam Bondi did not correct, but which we believe Attorney General Todd Blanche can quickly and permanently remedy. That is what we ask of you today.

A Marine and Army veteran invented the pistol stabilizing brace in 2012 so his friend, a wounded combat veteran, could control and shoot a pistol with one hand. The Obama Administration's ATF approved the design, explaining that adding a pistol stabilizing brace to a pistol does not create a "short-barreled rifle" regulated by the National Firearms Act.

Relying on that promise, millions of Americans – including untold numbers of disabled veterans – bought firearms equipped with braces legally, for many years. Indeed, more than 6,700 servicemembers and veterans later explained to Congress that, for many of them, a pistol stabilizing brace is the only practical way to exercise the Second Amendment rights they fought to defend.

Then, the Biden Administration pulled the rug out from under America's veterans and gun owners. After promising for years that pistol braces were permissible accessories for pistols, Biden's ATF did the opposite, claiming instead that millions of Americans were in unlawful possession of unregistered short-barreled rifles. Biden's rule would have turned millions of gun owners into felons overnight, including subjecting veterans who possessed such firearms to up to ten years in prison.

Because of this flagrant overstep by Biden's ATF, numerous states and organizations like Gun Owners of America (GOA) sued; thankfully, the courts listened, and Biden's pistol brace rule was enjoined and eventually struck down. These legal victories should have ended the matter, but unfortunately, they did not. Instead, activist bureaucrats at the Department of Justice and the ATF continued to enforce and apply Biden's pistol brace rule even after the courts vacated it and even after your return to the White House.

First, in the District of Columbia case United States v. Taranto, the DOJ charged a man for possessing a braced pistol, on the Biden-era theory that, in fact, it was an unregistered short-barreled rifle. During that prosecution, the DOJ claimed that, even though the Biden pistol brace rule had been vacated, DOJ could still enforce the same legal theories from ATF's rule under the guise of enforcing the statute. It took your 2024 election victory, along with immense pressure from gun owners, to get DOJ to dismiss those charges. Just one month after your 2024 election victory, a GOA member received an email from the ATF that claimed every pistol with a stabilizing brace was an unregistered short-barreled rifle and its possession could land its owner in federal prison. Again, after gun owners brought enormous public pressure to bear, ATF backed down.

Finally, GOA refused to let the court dismiss its pistol brace lawsuit. They argued that, because of DOJ and ATF's actions, a permanent injunction was necessary to prevent Biden-era legal theories from being enforced by rogue Washington, D.C. bureaucrats. However, Pam Bondi's DOJ opposed this lawsuit, while admitting that DOJ and ATF "continue to enforce the NFA's and the GCA's regulation of short-barreled rifles against some brace-equipped pistols, even though the Rule has been universally vacated."

Earlier this year, ATF promulgated a new proposed rulemaking on pistol braces, published on May 6, 2026. Unfortunately, in some ways, ATF's new proposal is worse than the Biden rule. It removes the "factors" the Biden rule established to determine whether a braced pistol is a short-barreled rifle. Instead, the new proposed rule claims ATF will make case-by-case determinations. In other words, no one will know how ATF will enforce the law except ATF itself. That lack of clarity puts gun owners, including veterans, in an impossible position.

There is no reason Biden's pistol brace rule, or the erroneous legal theories underpinning it, should continue to be enforced, especially after the October 9th announcement that ATF would no longer enforce federal registration provisions for short-barreled rifles and shotguns. Gun owners have a right to configure their firearms as they see fit, and disabled veterans should be able to equip firearms with stabilizing braces to aid in target practice and self-defense. Rather than opposing the overwhelming preferences of disabled veterans, as the previous administration did, the DOJ should be working with gun owners and veterans to give us a permanent victory against this Biden-era gun control policy.

We therefore urge you to instruct ATF and the Department of Justice to rescind the proposed rule on pistol braces and then issue new guidance declaring that no brace-equipped firearm falls under the National Firearms Act. This would provide much-needed legal clarity to brace-owning veterans, represent yet another fulfillment of your campaign promises, and avoid unnecessary litigation by Second Amendment and veterans' rights activists against poorly crafted ATF regulations.

We stand ready to help in any way that we can. And we thank you on behalf of millions of the nation's veterans and gun owners.

Sincerely,

Tony Wied
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

Clay Fuller
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

David J. Taylor
Member of Congress

Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
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