

October 26, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL LEADS AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S FIREARM AGE REGULATIONS

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today led a coalition of 20 attorneys general in defending a Florida law limiting the sale of firearms to people ages 21 and up. In an amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, Raoul and the coalition argue that states have the right to enact reasonable, age-based firearm regulations that protect public safety and reduce the prevalence of gun violence.

Raoul and the coalition [filed the brief](#) in *National Rifle Association v. Commissioner, Florida Department of Law Enforcement*. The lawsuit challenges a provision of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act that generally prohibits the purchase of firearms by individuals under the age of 21. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit claim that the law infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of young people. A lower court in this case rejected that argument, holding that laws regulating the sale of firearms to young people are longstanding and constitutional.

"Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act bears the name of a tragedy that may have been prevented by commonsense age-based restrictions on the sale of firearms," Raoul said "I am committed to defending the ability of states to create regulations that help enhance public safety and protect communities from gun violence by preventing dangerous firearms from getting into the hands of those who will not use them responsibly."

In the brief, Raoul and the coalition argue that the Second Amendment gives states the ability to enact sensible regulations designed to protect the public, including age-based restrictions that limit the ability of people younger than 21 to purchase firearms. Although regulations differ based on each state's needs, virtually every state and the District of Columbia has imposed some age-based restrictions on the sale or use of firearms, and at least 19 states and the District of Columbia have enacted a minimum age requirement of 21 for the sale or possession of certain categories of firearms. Similarly, courts across the country have consistently upheld age-based regulations, noting that the goal of these regulations is to deter crime and promote public safety.

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

No. 21-12314

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, INC., and RADFORD FANT,
Plaintiffs-Appellants,
v.
COMMISSIONER,
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT,
Defendant-Appellee.

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Florida

No. 4:18-cv-00137-MW
The Honorable Mark Walker

**BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE ILLINOIS, CALIFORNIA,
CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA, HAWAII, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,
MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEW JERSEY, NEW MEXICO,
NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA, OREGON,
PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT, VIRGINIA,
AND WASHINGTON IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT-
APPELLEE AND AFFIRMANCE**

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**CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS AND
CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Eleventh Circuit Rule 26.1, I hereby certify that the following listed persons and entities have an interest in the outcome of this case and were omitted from the Certificates of Interested Persons previously filed in this case:

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October 25, 2021

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IDENTITY AND INTEREST OF AMICI STATES

The amici States of Illinois, California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington submit this brief in support of Defendant-Appellee Rick Swearingen, Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(2).

The amici States have a substantial interest in the public health, safety, and welfare of their communities, which includes protecting their residents from the harmful effects of gun violence and promoting the safe use of firearms. *See Kolbe v. Hogan*, 849 F.3d 114, 139 (4th Cir. 2017) (en banc) (States’ “interest in the protection of [their] citizenry and the public safety is not only substantial, but compelling”). To serve that compelling interest, the amici States have long exercised their governmental prerogative to implement measures that regulate the sale and use of, and access to, firearms for individuals under the age of 21. Although the amici States have reached different conclusions on how best to regulate in this area, they share an interest in protecting their

right to address the problem of gun violence in a way that is tailored to the specific circumstances in each of their States. Enjoining Florida's reasonable regulation of the sale of firearms to individuals under the age of 21 would interfere with this interest. Accordingly, the amici States urge this Court to affirm the district court's judgment.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Whether section 790.065(13) of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act violates the Second Amendment.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

In the wake of the tragic shooting by a 19-year-old individual at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the Florida Legislature enacted the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, which, among other things, prohibits the purchase of firearms by persons under the age of 21. *See Fla. Stat. § 790.065(13)*.

Plaintiffs challenge section 790.065(13), claiming that it unduly infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of young people. But as the district court correctly held, laws regulating the sale of firearms to young adults are longstanding and presumptively lawful. App. 225-27. And section 790.065(13) would not violate the Second Amendment even

if it did burden conduct within its scope because regulations imposing age-based restrictions on the sale of firearms are reasonably related to Florida's substantial interests in public safety and in preventing gun violence, including mass shootings.

As the amici States explain below, the Second Amendment reserves to the States the ability to exercise their police powers by enacting sensible and varied regulations designed to protect the public. In fact, all States and the District of Columbia have imposed age-based regulations on the sale and use of, and access to, firearms within their borders. Although these regulations differ based on each jurisdiction's needs, at least 19 States and the District of Columbia have enacted a minimum age requirement of 21 for the sale or possession of certain categories of firearms.

Furthermore, the materials relied on by Florida—including legislative findings, social science research, and statistical analyses—demonstrated that section 790.065(13) is reasonably related to its state interests. Plaintiffs' arguments to the contrary are based on an unduly heightened burden that, if applied, would restrict the States' ability to devise local solutions to difficult and evolving problems. For these

reasons, and those articulated by Florida, this Court should affirm the decision of the district court.

ARGUMENT

I. The Second Amendment Allows States To Enact Varied Measures To Promote Gun Safety And Protect Against Gun Violence.

The amici States have long exercised their police power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents. In fact, “the States possess primary authority for defining and enforcing the criminal law,” *United States v. Lopez*, 514 U.S. 549, 561 n.3 (1995) (internal quotations omitted), and have “great latitude under their police powers to legislate as to the protection of the lives, limbs, health, comfort, and quiet of all persons,” *Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr*, 518 U.S. 470, 475 (1996) (internal quotations omitted). These responsibilities include enacting measures to promote safety, prevent crime, and minimize gun violence within their borders. *See, e.g., United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598, 618 (2000) (“Indeed, we can think of no better example of the police power, which the Founders denied the National Government and reposed in the States, than the suppression of violent crime and vindication of its victims.”).

These responsibilities are not diminished by the recognition of Second Amendment rights for law-abiding and responsible citizens. Indeed, as Judge Wilkinson explained in a case addressing Maryland’s ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, the Supreme Court’s recognition of “the ‘right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home,’” did not “abrogate” the States’ “core responsibility” of “[p]roviding for the safety of citizens within their borders.” *Kolbe v. Hogan*, 849 F.3d 114, 150 (4th Cir. 2017) (en banc) (Wilkinson, J., concurring) (quoting *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 635 (2008)). On the contrary, the Supreme Court in *Heller*—and then again in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742 (2010)—expressly acknowledged the important role that the States play in protecting their residents from the harms of gun violence.

To begin, *Heller* made clear that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is “not unlimited.” 554 U.S. at 595; *see also McDonald*, 561 U.S. at 802 (“No fundamental right—not even the First Amendment—is absolute.”). Although government entities may not ban handgun possession by responsible, law-abiding individuals in the home or impose similarly severe burdens on the Second Amendment right,

the States still possess “a variety of tools” to combat the problem of gun violence. *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 636. They may, for example, implement measures prohibiting certain groups of individuals from possessing firearms, such as “felons and the mentally ill,” or “imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.” *Id.* at 626-27; *see also Peruta v. Cnty. of San Diego*, 824 F.3d 919, 928 (9th Cir. 2016) (en banc) (noting that the *Heller* Court “emphasized the limited scope of its holding, and underscored the tools that remained available to the District of Columbia to regulate firearms”).

In *McDonald*, the Court reiterated that the Second Amendment “by no means eliminates” the States’ “ability to devise solutions to social problems that suit local needs and values.” 561 U.S. at 785. Rather, it recognized “that conditions and problems differ from locality to locality.” *Id.* at 783; *see also Friedman v. City of Highland Park*, 784 F.3d 406, 412 (7th Cir. 2015) (“the Constitution establishes a federal republic where local differences are cherished as elements of liberty, rather than eliminated in a search for national uniformity”).

Indeed, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a wide variety of factors “affect the volume and type of crime occurring from

place to place,” including population density, variations in the youth concentration in the composition of the population, poverty level, job availability, available modes of transportation, climate, criminal justice system policies, and educational and recreational characteristics.¹

These factors, which vary from State to State, produce disparities in the number and characteristics of firearm-related murders and other crimes.² Given these unique conditions and needs, the States must be able to implement varied measures to address gun violence and protect the health and safety of their residents, as both *Heller* and *McDonald* acknowledged.

Multiple circuits have applied these principles to confirm the constitutionality of state and local regulations addressing the purchase and possession of firearms. In *Friedman*, for instance, the Seventh Circuit upheld a local government’s ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, noting that although “*Heller* and *McDonald* set

¹ Fed. Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics: Their Proper Use* (May 2017), <https://ucr.fbi.gov/ucr-statistics-their-proper-use>. All websites were last visited on October 25, 2021.

² See, e.g., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, *Murder: Crime in the United States 2018, tbl. 20*, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/tables/table-20>.

limits on the regulation of firearms,” they did not “take all questions about which weapons are appropriate for self-defense out of the people’s hands.” 784 F.3d at 412. As the court explained, “the Constitution establishes a federal republic where local differences are cherished as elements of liberty, rather than eliminated in a search for national uniformity.” *Id.*

Likewise, in *Kolbe*, the Fourth Circuit rejected a challenge to Maryland’s ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. 849 F.3d at 121. In concurrence, Judge Wilkinson highlighted the need for courts to refrain from relying on *Heller*’s limited holding to “disable[] legislatures from addressing the wholly separate subject of assault weapons suitable for use by military forces around the globe.” *Id.* at 150 (Wilkinson, J., concurring). In other words, he did not draw from *Heller* or “the profound ambiguities of the Second Amendment an invitation to courts to preempt this most volatile of political subjects and arrogate to themselves decisions that have been historically assigned to other, more democratic, actors.” *Id.* *Accord, e.g., Pena v. Lindley*, 898 F.3d 969, 979 (9th Cir. 2018) (approving of California’s “decision to require new semiautomatic gun models manufactured in-

state to incorporate new technology” because “the state must be allowed a reasonable opportunity to experiment with solutions to admittedly serious problems”).

This Court should apply these same principles—which build on the States’ responsibility to protect the health and safety of their residents and their ability to utilize innovative measures when doing so—to the age restrictions at issue in this case.

II. Florida’s Age-Based Regulation Is Consistent With Measures Taken By Other States And Upheld By Courts Across The Country.

Florida’s decision to regulate the sale of firearms to young people is well within the parameters just discussed. As Florida explains, the challenged statutory provision was enacted to promote public safety and reduce gun violence, including in the context of mass shootings, by preventing the unsupervised acquisition of firearms by those in a high-risk group—people between 18 and 21. Fl. Br. 1-2.

Furthermore, the regulatory mechanisms chosen by Florida to achieve its public safety goals are consistent with those implemented across the country and upheld by the courts. Although the States have reached different conclusions on how best to regulate the sale of, use of,

and access to firearms—as they are permitted to do, *see supra* Section I—virtually every State and the District of Columbia has determined that imposing *some* age-based restrictions on the sale or use of firearms is necessary to promote public safety and curb gun violence within its borders.³

More specifically, many States have imposed very similar age-based restrictions to those enacted by Florida here. Nineteen States and the District of Columbia generally prohibit the sale of handguns, long guns, or both to those under 21 (subject, in some cases, to exceptions).⁴ Some of these regulations establish more substantial

³ Giffords Law Center, *Minimum Age to Purchase and Possess*, <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/minimum-age/> (collecting state laws that impose a minimum age for purchasing and/or possessing handguns and/or long guns).

⁴ Cal. Penal Code §§ 27505(a), 27510; Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-34(b); D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4507; Del. Code Ann. tit. 24, § 903; Fla. Stat. § 790.065(13); Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 134-2(a), (d), (h); 430 Ill. Comp. Stat. 65/3(a), 65/4(a)(2); Iowa Code § 724.22(2); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, §§ 130, 131E(b); Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety § 5-134(b); Mich. Comp. Laws § 28.422(3)(b), (12); Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080; Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 69-2403, 69-2404; N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 2C:58-3(c)(4), 3.3(c), 6.1(a); N.Y. Penal Law § 400.00(1)(a), (12); Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(2); R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 11-47-35(a)(1), 11-47-37; Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 13, § 4020; Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.41.240; W. Va. Code § 61-7-10(d).

restrictions than those imposed by section 790.065(13). For instance, that law exempts rifles and shotguns sold to law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and servicemembers. Fla. Stat. § 790.065(13). By contrast, other States have determined that no such exemptions are appropriate—consistent, again, with their authority to tailor local regulations to local needs. And, as another example, some States have concluded that their public safety interests will be best served by regulating the possession, as well as the purchase, of firearms by young people. To that end, nine States and the District of Columbia have set a minimum age of 21 to possess certain firearms at all (subject again, in some cases, to exceptions).⁵

Moreover, of those States that do not regulate purchase or possession by those under the age of 21, the overwhelming majority have nonetheless imposed *some* age restriction on firearm access,

⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-36f; D.C. Code Ann. § 7-2502.03(a)(1); Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 134-2(a), 134-2(d), 134-4, 134-5; 430 Ill. Comp. Stat. 65/2(a)(1), 65/4(a)(2)(i); Iowa Code § 724.22; Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety § 5-133(d); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, § 131(d)(iv); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2C:58-6.1(b); N.Y. Penal Law § 400.00(1)(a); Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.41.240.

whether at 16, 17, 18, or even 19.⁶ All of these States, in other words, have made the judgment that it would best serve public safety to limit firearm access in some manner to those sufficiently mature to use firearms responsibly.

Courts across the country have uniformly upheld regulations enacted by States that limit firearm access to people under the age of 21, as the district court recognized. *See* App. 225-27 (canvassing cases); Fl. Br. 17-18 & n.9 (same); *Lara v. Evanchick*, No. 20-cv-1582, 2021 WL 1432802, at *9-10 (W.D. Pa. Apr. 16, 2021) (describing the “established consensus” on this point), *appeal docketed*, No. 21-1832 (3d Cir.).⁷ For instance, both federal and state courts have affirmed the constitutionality of an Illinois statutory scheme that requires parental consent for individuals under 21 to obtain a license to possess firearms. *See Horsley v. Trame*, 808 F.3d 1126, 1134 (7th Cir. 2015) (upholding consent requirement for young adults between the ages of 18 and 20); *In*

⁶ Giffords Law Center, *supra* note 3.

⁷ Plaintiffs rely heavily on a Fourth Circuit opinion reaching a contrary conclusion with respect to federal restrictions on handgun purchase, but that court subsequently vacated that opinion as moot. *See Hirschfeld v. ATF*, 5 F.4th 407 (4th Cir.), *vacated as moot*, No. 19-2250, 2021 WL 4301564 (4th Cir. Sept. 22, 2021).

re Jordan G., 33 N.E.3d 162, 168-69 (Ill. 2015) (upholding portions of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon statute that apply to persons under the age of 21 without the requisite license). Illinois enacted these measures, the Seventh Circuit explained, to promote its longstanding interest in public safety and, more specifically, in protecting residents from firearms violence. *Horsley*, 808 F.3d at 1132.

The Fifth Circuit has similarly rejected a constitutional challenge to Texas statutes that prohibit persons aged 18 to 20 from carrying handguns in public. *Nat'l Rifle Ass'n v. McCraw*, 719 F.3d 338, 347 (5th Cir. 2013). In reaching this conclusion, the court relied on a decision upholding the federal ban on commercial handgun sales to individuals under 21, noting that the goal of both regulations was to restrict the use of and access to firearms by young adults to deter crime and promote public safety. *Id.* (citing *Nat'l Rifle Ass'n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d 185 (5th Cir. 2012)); *see also Powell v. Tompkins*, 926 F. Supp. 2d 367, 378-80 (D. Mass. 2013) (rejecting Second Amendment challenge to Massachusetts minimum-age requirement for public carriage), *aff'd*, 783 F.3d 332 (1st Cir. 2015).

In short, Florida's decision to implement age-based restrictions on the sale of firearms is both consistent with other States' approaches and within the constitutional range.

III. Florida Has Demonstrated That Its Age-Based Regulations Promote Public Safety And Prevent Gun Violence.

In addition to being consistent with regulations imposed by numerous other States, and upheld by the courts, section 790.065(13) is reasonably related to Florida's compelling interests in promoting public safety and preventing gun violence. Although the district court correctly reasoned that section 790.065(13) does not burden conduct protected by the Second Amendment because it is a longstanding and presumptively lawful regulatory measure, App. 225-27, plaintiffs nonetheless urge the Court to strike down the law using either a so-called "text, history, and tradition standard" or, failing that, strict scrutiny, Pls'. Br. 31-46. As Florida suggests, Fl. Br. 22-24, if the Court concludes that the statutory scheme implicates the Second Amendment, it would be appropriate to remand to allow the lower court to consider the parties' evidence on this point in the first instance. If, however, the Court reaches plaintiffs' arguments on this point, it should reject them.

At most, intermediate scrutiny should govern plaintiffs' claim, as Florida explained below, Doc. 107 at 19-22. And plaintiffs are likewise wrong to suggest that, if intermediate scrutiny applies, Florida has not satisfied its burden. Pls.' Br. 39-43.

First, plaintiffs are incorrect to suggest that a standard more heightened than intermediate scrutiny might apply here. Although this Court has not yet resolved a case under "step two" of the *Heller* analysis, other circuits have held that "the appropriate level of scrutiny 'depends on the nature of the conduct being regulated and the degree to which the challenged law burdens the right,'" *Nat'l Rifle Ass'n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d at 205 (quoting *United States v. Chester*, 628 F.3d 673, 682 (4th Cir. 2010)). And while these circuits have applied strict scrutiny to statutes that threaten "right[s] at the core of the Second Amendment," they have universally applied intermediate scrutiny to statutes imposing lesser burdens on protected conduct, *Nat'l Rifle Ass'n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d at 195—including those that, like section 790.065(13), impose "conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms," *Heller*,

554 U.S. at 626-27 & n.26.⁸ Indeed, to amici’s knowledge, every court to have considered the constitutionality of minimum-age restrictions of this sort under “step two” of the *Heller* analysis, *see supra* pp. 12-14, has applied intermediate scrutiny. This Court should follow that line of authority here.

Plaintiffs also err in arguing that Florida has not met its burden under intermediate scrutiny—including, at the outset, by misstating what that burden entails. Plaintiffs insist that the Court must assess whether section 790.065(13) is “narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest.” Pls.’ Br. 39. But plaintiffs cite no Second Amendment case applying that standard. Instead, courts ask whether the government can “show a reasonable fit between the law and an important government objective.” *Nat’l Rifle Ass’n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d at 205; *accord, e.g., Harley v. Wilkinson*, 988 F.3d 766, 768 (4th Cir. 2021)

⁸ The Court should thus reject plaintiffs’ invitation to analyze section 790.065(13) solely based on the Second Amendment’s “text, history, and tradition.” Pls.’ Br. 31-32. As the Fifth Circuit has explained, the conclusion that means-ends scrutiny is an appropriate way to analyze Second Amendment claims follows from “the language of *Heller*.” *Nat’l Rifle Ass’n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d at 197; *see also, e.g., N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Cuomo*, 804 F.3d 242, 254 & n. 49 (2d Cir. 2015) (collecting cases applying means-ends scrutiny).

(same); *Drake v. Filko*, 724 F.3d 426, 436 (3d Cir. 2013) (same); *see also Nat'l Parks Conservation Ass'n v. Norton*, 324 F.3d 1229, 1244 (11th Cir. 2003) (“Under [intermediate scrutiny], a preference may be upheld so long as it is substantially related to an important governmental objective.” (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)).

Nor is it correct, as plaintiffs argue, that Florida must show that a statute “*will actually* further [its] stated interests” to withstand intermediate scrutiny. Pls’ Br. 40 (emphasis added). Such an approach would hamstring state legislatures by placing them in the difficult position of showing that a yet-to-be-enacted measure would definitively resolve the problem that the legislatures seek to address. In other words, the States would be rendered unable to innovate, or even tweak past legislative models, when faced with difficult and evolving problems like gun violence and mass shootings. Such a rule would thus directly interfere with the States’ right to exercise their police power “to devise solutions to social problems that suit local needs and values.”

McDonald, 561 U.S. at 785. As discussed, *see supra* Section I, permitting state variation on measures addressing gun violence was a central emphasis of both *Heller* and *McDonald*.

Moreover, imposing such a requirement would nullify state legislatures' ability to make predictive judgments, which are an important component of lawmaking. In fact, courts have held that they "must accord substantial deference to the predictive judgments of the legislature." *Kolbe*, 849 F.3d at 140 (citing *Turner Broad. Sys., Inc. v. FCC*, 512 U.S. 622, 666 (1994)). Whereas the legislature is responsible for "weigh[ing] conflicting evidence and mak[ing] policy judgments," the courts' "obligation is simply 'to assure that, in formulating its judgments, the legislature has drawn reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence.'" *Id.* (quoting *Turner*, 512 U.S. at 666); *see also Pena*, 898 F.3d at 979 (legislatures are "not obligated, when enacting their statutes, to make a record of the type that an administrative agency or court does to accommodate judicial review").

When the correct legal and evidentiary framework is applied, Florida has presented evidence that is more than sufficient to meet its burden. To satisfy intermediate scrutiny, a State may rely on any evidence "reasonably believed to be relevant" to substantiate the link between its interests and the means chosen by its legislature. *Daytona Grand, Inc. v. City of Daytona Beach, Fla.*, 490 F.3d 860, 875 (11th Cir.

2007); accord *City of Renton v. Playtime Theatres, Inc.*, 475 U.S. 41, 51-52 (1986). That evidence may include the enactment’s legislative history, but it also may include “evidence gathered by other localities” or “evidence described in a judicial opinion.” *Daytona Grand*, 590 F.3d at 875. Here, Florida set forth ample evidence from each of those categories, including legislative history, statistical analyses, and social science evidence. Doc. 107 at 24-29.

That evidence demonstrates that section 790.065(13) is related to Florida’s interests in public safety and crime prevention, especially with respect to mass shootings. Florida showed through legislative history and recent statistics that young adults between the ages of 18 and 20 commit a disproportionately large number of violent crimes. Doc. 107 at 25-16. And Florida likewise explained that it had experienced increasingly frequent and deadly mass shootings, that the vast majority of guns used in mass shootings are procured from dealers or other legal sources, and that a large proportion of those shootings were committed by young adults. *Id.* at 27-28.

This evidence more than suffices to show the connection between restricting firearm access to persons under 21 and the state interests in

public safety and the prevention of violence. In fact, numerous courts across the country have relied on similar evidence in upholding age-based restrictions on the sale and use of, or access to, firearms. *See, e.g., Horsley*, 808 F.3d at 1133 (citing studies and data on “persons under 21 and violent and gun crimes,” as well as scholarly research on development through early adulthood); *Nat’l Rifle Ass’n v. McCraw*, 719 F.3d at 348 (“the record in this case emphasize[s] that those under 21 years of age are more likely to commit violent crimes with handguns than other groups”); *Nat’l Rifle Ass’n v. ATF*, 700 F.3d at 206 (“Congress found that persons under 21 tend to be relatively irresponsible and can be prone to violent crime, especially when they have easy access to handguns.”). If the Court reaches the question whether the challenged measure satisfies intermediate scrutiny, it should hold that it easily does.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Court should affirm the judgment below.

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that this brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(b)(4) because it contains 3,907 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Rule 32(a)(7)(B)(iii). This brief complies with the typeface requirement of Rule 32(a)(5) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface (14-point Century Schoolbook) using Microsoft Word.

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October 25, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 25, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing Brief of Amici Curiae Illinois et al. with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit using the CM/ECF system. I further certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

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