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Attorney General Marshall Seeks to Reinstate State Authority with U.S. Supreme Court Reversal on Child Rape Death Penalty Ban

(**Montgomery, Ala**) – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall has joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general supporting efforts to correct the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2008 decision in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, which struck down state capital punishment laws for child rape. The coalition emphasizes that states now have both the authority and the responsibility to enact carefully crafted statutes that will withstand judicial scrutiny and allow for the ultimate punishment in these horrific cases.

“Alabama has long been a leader in standing up for the rule of law and for the protection of children. I am proud to stand with President Trump and my fellow attorneys general in fighting for laws that reflect the seriousness of this evil and deliver justice for its victims,” Attorney General Steve Marshall said.

“We must use every tool at our disposal to protect children, deter predators, and impose just punishment. Alabama will not hesitate to do its part.”

The multi-state letter emphasized that the *Kennedy* decision stripped states of a vital tool to punish and deter predators who commit the most extreme sexual assaults against children. It argued that the decision disregarded the profound harm inflicted on victims, equated their lifelong trauma with lesser crimes, and undermined the ability of states to protect their most vulnerable citizens. The attorneys general stressed that the Eighth Amendment does not prohibit the death penalty for child rape. They urged the Court to recognize that the death penalty can be a constitutionally appropriate punishment in cases of child rape, just as it is for murder.

Attorney General Marshall and the coalition noted that since *Kennedy*, states have continued to enact legislation authorizing capital punishment for aggravated child rape, showing that there is no true national consensus against the practice and demonstrating efforts to enact child rape statutes that are distinguishable from the one that was struck down in *Kennedy*.

To review the full letter, [click here](#).

