

WILLIAM PRYOR ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Highlights:

- William Pryor fought against federal domestic violence protections.

Pryor Fought Against Federal Domestic Violence Protections

PRYOR FILED AN AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC ABUSERS RETAINING GUN OWNERSHIP

Trace: Pryor “Injected” Himself Into A Texas Case Involving A Man Who Had Been Charged With Violating The Federal Ban On Possessing Firearms While Under A Domestic Violence Restraining Order. According to the Trace, “As Alabama’s AG, Pryor also injected himself into the case of a Texas man who had been charged with violating the federal ban on possessing firearms while under a domestic violence restraining order, calling the government’s interpretation of the law ‘a sweeping and arbitrary infringement on the Second Amendment.’ In 2001, the NRA’s lobbying arm gave Pryor its Harlon B. Carter Legislative Achievement Award, its top honor.” [Trace, [11/18/16](#)]

Pryor Filed An Amicus Brief In Support Of Allowing A Man Who Had Restraining Order For Domestic Violence Be Permitted To Possess A Gun. While appearing at Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, “Senator Durbin. Are you familiar with the case of United States v. Emerson? Mr. Pryor. Yes. Senator Durbin. Which was filed in Texas, the case involving Timothy Joe Emerson, the subject of a domestic violence restraining order prohibiting him from threatening his wife or daughter or causing them bodily injury, and under Federal law he was prohibited from possessing a firearm because he was under this restraining order against domestic violence; and that although this was a Texas case being decided by the Fifth Circuit, you decided to file an amicus brief on behalf of the people of the State of Alabama in support of Timothy Joe Emerson being allowed to carry a gun. Can you explain why you went out of your way to say that a man that is under a restraining order for domestic violence who would threaten the life of his wife or former wife’s boyfriend should be allowed to carry a gun? Mr. Pryor. I was arguing a position to get the Fifth Circuit in that case to look at the Federal statute itself and avoid the question that the district court had ruled upon. The district court dismissed the indictment of that individual on the basis of the Second Amendment, claiming that the Federal law in question was unconstitutional under the Second Amendment. There were some confusing aspects to the Federal statute in question that I thought the court ought to look at. The court ended up looking at that and rejected my argument. But I had urged the court to—if my argument had prevailed, to avoid the question of a Second Amendment defense.” [Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, [6/11/03](#)]

PRYOR LEAD A SINGLE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Pryor Was The Only Attorney General To File An Amicus Brief Opposing The Violence Against Women Act On The Grounds That It Violated States’ Rights. According to PBS, “The Violence Against Women Act was passed by Congress in 1994 and was enhanced in 2000. The Act provided stiff penalties for repeat offenders as well as federal support and funding for programs like domestic violence hotlines, education and crime prevention programs. The Act also allowed victims to bring gender-based violence suits in federal courts. In United States v. Morrison, the Act was challenged on the grounds that this right to sue was beyond the scope of Congressional authority. Thirty-six states filed amicus briefs in support of the right to sue under VAWA. Attorney General Pryor filed the only amicus brief opposing the law on the grounds that it violated states’ rights.” [PBS, [7/11/03](#)]

Schumer: Pryor Was The Only Attorney General To File An Amicus Brief Urging The Supreme Court To Undo Significant Portions Of The Violence Against Women Act And Wondered Why It Had Such “Political Support, Especially In Congress.” While appearing at Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Chuck Schumer said, “When it comes to States’ rights, the record gets even more disturbing. Attorney General Pryor has been one of the staunchest advocates of the Rehnquist Court’s efforts to roll back the clock, not just to the 1930’s, but even to the 1880’s. He is an ardent

supporter of an activist Supreme Court agenda, cutting back Congress's power and the Federal Government's power to protect women, workers, consumers, the environment and civil rights. For instance, on States' rights, as Alabama's Attorney General Mr. Pryor filed the only amicus brief from among the 50 states, urging the court to undo significant portions of the Violence Against Women Act. In commenting on that law, Attorney General Pryor said, quote, 'One wonders why VAWA enjoys such political support, especially in Congress.'" [Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, [6/11/03](#)]