

MONTY FRITTS
House District 32
Parts of Roane & Loudon Counties

Phone: (615) 741-7658
Fax: (615) 253-0163

rep.monty.fritts@capitol.tn.gov

DISTRICT CONTACTS:

Post Office Box 1150
Kingston, Tennessee 37763

Phone: (865) 617-7459

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 28, 2025

Jonathan Skrmetti,
Attorney General & Reporter
State of Tennessee
John Sevier State Office Building
500 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Via email: tammy.fulwider@ag.tn.gov

Dear General Skrmetti:

As you know, since first being elected to this office, I have been working to bring the Tennessee Code in line with both the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions relative to our right to keep and bear arms. In the past, you and I have discussed §39-17-1307 (a)(1), “A person commits an offense who carries, with the intent to go armed, a firearm or a club”, and the fact that I believe it is a violation of those Creator-endowed and Constitutionally-guaranteed rights. It also runs counter to the cornerstone of the American Criminal Justice System that all are innocent until proven guilty because the offense is based upon intent rather than due to actions taken, which presumes guilt, not innocence. In fact, in a letter from my office to yours, dated March 20, 2024, I asked your office to conduct a review of *all* of our firearms statutes (§39-17-1301 through §39-17-1366) and opine on whether our statutes were in conflict with the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Heller*, *McDonald*, and *Bruen*. As I recall, you were not able to issue such an opinion because *Hughes v Lee* had been filed.

I believe, as do my colleagues signed on below, that the decision made by the Chancery Court in *Hughes, et al., v Bill Lee, et al.* makes it clear that these statutes *are* in conflict with the Supreme Court decisions because they are in conflict with both the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions. The decision in *Hughes v Lee* is, therefore, a victory for liberty in Tennessee.

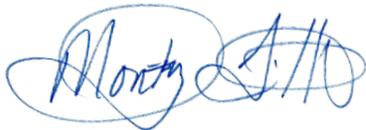
For this reason, it is concerning to us to hear that the Defendants are considering an appeal of this decision. It is our belief that such an appeal would not only allow these unconstitutional statutes to continue to stand, create confusion amongst law-abiding citizens about their rights, and delay the remedy of the injustices caused by the past enforcement of these statutes, but it would also incur unnecessary expenses for all involved.

We understand that part of your role as the Attorney General for Tennessee is to act to defend the laws of our State, and those involved in carrying out the enforcement of

those laws, in court. However, at what point do we say that the laws are not worth defending because they rob our citizens of their God-given and Constitutionally-guaranteed rights? The citizens of our districts believe that government is supposed to be about securing their rights. We believe Tennesseans in other districts across the State believe the same thing. Is it right, then, for Tennessee government officials to continue to pursue the preservation of laws that do the opposite? We would argue that it is not right. We would, therefore, respectfully request that you urge the Defendants in *Hughes v Lee* to consider the citizens of this State and accept the ruling of the Chancery Court.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,



Michele Reneau
Rep. Michele Reneau, District 27



Rep. Todd Warner, District 92

Copies to: Governor Bill Lee