

AUSTIN KNUDSEN



STATE OF MONTANA

December 9, 2025

Karen White
Executive Director
Attorney General Alliance

Brian Kane
Executive Director
National Association of Attorneys General

via email

Dear Ms. White & Mr. Kane:

We write with grave concern about Virginia Attorney General-elect Jay Jones and urge the Attorney General Alliance and the National Association of Attorneys General to deny his membership. His conduct raises serious questions about his judgment, temperament, and fitness to serve as a state attorney general.

In 2022 Mr. Jones sent a series of text messages containing explicit fantasies of violence. Among them, he described “two bullets to the head” of a political opponent.¹ Most disturbingly, he expressed his desire to see his political opponents’ children die so that they could “feel pain personally.”² All because Jones considered his political opponents “evil” people who were “breeding little fascists.”³ Further demonstrating his depravity, Mr. Jones expressed his desire to go to the funerals of his political opponents “to piss on their graves” and “[s]end them out awash in something.”⁴

Wishing death as a means of political success appears to be pattern for Mr. Jones. The same delegate who received those abhorrent text messages in 2022 recalled a 2020 phone call in which Jones said if a few police officers died, then maybe they would stop killing people.⁵

¹ <https://jayjonestexts.com/>

² <https://jayjonestexts.com/>

³ <https://jayjonestexts.com/>

⁴ <https://jayjonestexts.com/>

⁵ <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/5541374-jay-jones-text-scandal/>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026
Contactdoj@mt.gov
mtdoj.gov

These were not offhand remarks—they are calculated, violent thoughts articulated by someone about to hold the highest law enforcement office in Virginia.

While Mr. Jones has issued an apology, it fails to convey genuine contrition. He does not fully acknowledge the danger posed by his words, nor the profound breach of public trust they represent. The messages demonstrate recklessness and a disturbing willingness to condone violence, raising serious doubts about his ability to serve responsibly. This is not a trivial lapse in judgment; it is a red flag about temperament, accountability, and fitness for office.

These concerns are heightened in the context of the alarming rise in political violence, including the assassination of Former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and husband Mark, and Charlie Kirk, the attempted murders of a Minnesota state senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette and attempted shooting of their daughter Hope and the attempted assassination of President Trump. Threats and attacks on elected officials and law enforcement are escalating nationwide. When an incoming attorney general engages in rhetoric condoning violence, it signals that such behavior is acceptable.

The office of attorney general is a solemn trust. It demands integrity, judgment, and respect for the law. Mr. Jones' conduct—and his lack of genuine accountability—casts serious doubt on his ability to uphold that trust. Granting membership to someone who has openly fantasized about murder risks eroding the credibility of our profession and endangering colleagues nationwide. Those of us who serve in these offices must ask: if Mr. Jones can wish death on his political opponents and their families in Virginia, at what point will he wish the same upon us?

This is not about party politics. It is about public trust, the integrity of law enforcement, and basic human decency. Allowing Mr. Jones to participate would be a stain on our institutions and an abject moral failure. Your response will demonstrate whether our profession holds all members accountable, or whether violent rhetoric will go unchecked.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin Knudsen".

Austin Knudsen

ATTORNEY GENERAL TO MONTANA



Steve Marshall
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALABAMA.



James Uthmeier
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF FLORIDA



Raúl R. Labrador
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF IDAHO



Mike Hilgers
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEBRASKA



Ken Paxton
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

cc: