



Written by [Bob Adelman](#) on July 20, 2021

Democrat Support for Biden's ATF Pick Is Crumbling

Joe Biden's pick to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or ATF, David Chipman, has such a sorry and odious anti-gun, anti-Second Amendment, and anti-American stance on the private ownership of firearms that even the No. 2 Senate Democrat is having second thoughts.

On Monday, Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin [said](#) "there are a lot of issues" with Chipman, admitting that the nomination "is not where we want it yet, but there's always a chance."

That's Democrat double-speak for "any chance Chipman had to be confirmed by the Senate is now zero."

Those "issues" to which Durbin referred [were reviewed by The New American in May](#). Chipman's responses to particularly probing questions by Republican senators were diffident, indirect, and in some cases incoherent. When pressed, he couldn't define an "assault" weapon, even though he had worked for the ATF for 25 years and no doubt carried one on his person much of that time.

When quizzed about looking into Hunter Biden's lying on the ATF's Form 4430 in order to purchase a firearm, Chipman responded, "I will ensure that all violations of law are investigated and referred to." Regarding Hunter Biden specifically, Chipman was incoherent: "I'm not sure that it has not been investigated."

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Unimpressed with his lies, prevarications, and distortions, not a single Republican Senator leaving the hearing said he would support the Biden nominee. That means that every single one of the 50 Democrat Senators must line up behind Chipman, or his nomination is dead.

The committee deadlocked, 11-11, on whether or not to move his nomination to the floor. That leaves the issue in the hands of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who has yet to schedule a floor vote on the nomination.

At least eight Democrats, not including Durbin, are having their doubts. As of Monday, Maine Independent Senator Angus King (who caucuses with the Democrats) said that he still hadn't made up his mind about Chipman. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said he was still "working on it."

Senate Democrat Jon Tester (D-Mont.) said he's "still analyzing" the issue but added that he's not "feeling the urgency" to move ahead with the Chipman nomination. Others not "feeling the urgency" include Senators Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), and Gary Peters (D-Mich.).

Chipman hasn't helped himself with his anti-gun sentiments. But most enraging are his deprecating



AP Images
David Chipman



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comments about American gun owners. His denigration made headlines in March when he told them to “secure that gun, locked and unloaded, and hide it behind the cans of tuna and beef jerky that you have stored in a cabinet, and only bring that out if the zombies start to appear.”

With that, he ended his nomination. Those law-abiding gun owners didn’t need to know that he remains on the payroll of the anti-gun Giffords Law Center, or that he previously worked for Michael Bloomberg’s anti-gun Everytown for Gun Safety. They didn’t need to know that Chipman, if confirmed, would advance the plan to disarm the American people as part of the Left’s attempt to transform America.

For all intents and purposes, Chipman’s nomination is dead.



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