# US Supreme Court Allows NRA Free-Speech Lawsuit Against NY Official to Proceed



**Supreme Court Revives NRA Free-Speech Claim Against New York Official**

WASHINGTON – On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the National Rifle Association (NRA) could proceed with a First Amendment lawsuit against a former New York state official. The decision allows the NRA to pursue claims that its free-speech rights were violated by ex-New York State Department of Financial Services Superintendent Maria Vullo following the 2018 Parkland school shooting.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor authored the opinion, emphasizing that the NRA “plausibly alleged” that Vullo's actions amounted to "coercion" against entities that did business with the gun rights group. The NRA's lawsuit follows guidance issued by Vullo urging banks and insurance companies to reassess and potentially sever ties with the NRA due to "reputational risks."

The NRA argued that Vullo’s directives were an attempt to ostracize the organization financially, which they saw as an infringement on their free speech rights. The Biden administration supported the NRA’s claim but sought to ensure that government officials would still be able to advocate strongly against advocacy groups without facing lawsuits.

The lawsuit was initially dismissed by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals but is now remanded for further proceedings based on the Supreme Court’s ruling. The case underscores significant legal precedents regarding the limits of governmental authority in regulating the advocacy activities of private organizations.

The NRA was represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), citing the protection of First Amendment rights for all advocacy organizations.

This decision does not conclude the case but revives it, allowing the NRA to proceed with its lawsuit in the lower courts.

**Key Points:**  
- The Supreme Court ruled 9-0 in favor of the NRA.  
- Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the unanimous opinion.  
- The NRA claims its free-speech rights were violated by former New York official Maria Vullo.  
- Vullo had encouraged financial institutions to cut ties with the NRA post-Parkland shooting.  
- The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals' dismissal of the case was reversed.