

October 20, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ANTITRUST LAWSUIT AGAINST GOOGLE**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today released a statement in response to an antitrust lawsuit the U.S. Department of Justice filed against Google. Raoul, as part of a coalition of attorneys general, has been conducting a bipartisan investigation of Google’s business practices to determine whether the tech giant operates in violation of state and federal antitrust laws.

Raoul and the coalition are examining Google’s dominant role in the industry throughout the online advertising market, from advertiser to publisher. This overarching control may have led to anticompetitive behavior that harms consumers. This joint investigation, in conjunction with federal authorities, is aimed at assessing competitive conditions for online services and ensuring that Americans have access to free digital markets.

“Over the last year, my office has partnered with other state attorneys general to investigate Google’s anticompetitive market behavior, an undertaking that is separate from but parallel to the Department of Justice’s investigation. The strong bipartisan cooperation among the states combined with collaboration with the Department of Justice is critical to protecting consumers’ right to internet access that is not hindered by anticompetitive behavior.

“In the coming weeks, our coalition will conclude parts of our investigation of Google. Should a lawsuit stem from the investigation, we may file a motion to consolidate our case with the complaint filed today by the Department of Justice, and we would then litigate the consolidated case cooperatively. I am committed to continuing to work with our state and federal partners to protect competition and innovation in our technology markets.”

Past investigations of Google uncovered violations ranging from advertising illegal drugs in the United States to now three antitrust actions brought by the European Commission. None of these previous investigations fully address the source of Google’s sustained market power and the ability to engage in serial and repeated business practices with the intention to protect and maintain that power.