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Dear Editor:

The upcoming election for Attorney General is critical to those of us who are concerned by the rise of gang activity in Virginia. Extremely violent gangs--such as the Central American-based MS-13--have begun to take root in parts of the Commonwealth, spreading mayhem that threatens entire communities. Our next Attorney General must recognize the special threat that these gangs pose to Virginia public safety and act to stop them.

Judging by the records of the two candidates, Ken Cuccinelli is far more likely to deal decisively and effectively with these violent gangs. Senator Cuccinelli introduced multiple pieces of legislation that specifically targeted gangs by attacking some of their distinctive practices, such as the use of machetes and violent hazing rituals. Ken Cuccinelli has also been a strong advocate for the preservation of capital punishment in Virginia, despite numerous Democratic attempts to curtail it. Steve Shannon, in contrast, has talked a great deal about gangs as a candidate, but has done little of substance to address the issue. Virginia needs action on gang violence, and Ken Cuccinelli has demonstrated that he is the candidate to provide it.

I am proud to have served with Ken in the General Assembly for a few years and I know that he is devoted to the people of Virginia and know he has the experience to keep Virginia safe. Please join me in supporting Ken Cuccinelli this November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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Former Member VA House of Delegates, 15<sup>th</sup> District