



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 1 , 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
328 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
503 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill,

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies in the country, we are providing our support for legislation regarding the "Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2017" to be passed through Congress. This legislation would amend the "Homeland Security Act of 2002" to establish the Counterterrorism Advisory Board (CTAB).

CTAB coordination has been key to the improved work of the DHS over the last several years on aviation threats, border threats, homegrown violent extremists, cyber threats and other homeland security threats. Terrorism at all levels is a major threat to our Nation, and a high level of communications abilities among agencies will always be in our best interest to ensure the most desirable steps are taken to lessen a disaster if not completely avoid it.

Not only will federal agencies gain from this proposed legislation, but local law enforcement will be able to be better prepared and informed for instances of terrorism, especially the ever-increasing homegrown terrorism we are experiencing in our country. This aspect of extremism has shown how local departments and the federal government must come together in awareness and policy making to ensure proper intelligence sharing and best practices are taken to protect our Nation.

On behalf of the law enforcement community, we would like to express how beneficial this Advisory Board would be to law enforcement and all first responders. The related House bill H.R. 526 has already passed by voice vote in the last Congress and is expected to again pass the House without controversy. We look forward to swift passage of this legislation in the Senate as well.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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