



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Graham and Senator Feinstein:

I write to you as both Chief of the Houston Police Department and President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register strong support for red flag legislation.

By permitting the temporary, court ordered, removal of firearms from persons designated as dangerous, red flag laws serve as an important gun violence prevention measure. Presently, this process only exists on the state-level, but a federal measure would help ensure consistent enforcement across state lines and protect due process rights as enumerated in our constitution. The protection of American's right to due process will ensure that the red flag law will be a common-sense solution to gun violence and not an egregious display of government overreach. Congress must contemplate red flag legislation that effectively preempts gun violence, but also requires high standards for evidence and does not impede on the liberties of law-abiding citizens.

Sensible red flag laws could have played a critical role in preventing tragedies like in Newtown, CT and Parkland, FL. For all the major police agencies in the nation, we say that this cannot be allowed to happen again. Effective red flag laws will strive to identify the most mentally disturbed members of society and take deadly weapons out of their hands before the next tragedy senselessly takes more lives.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association has strongly advocated for red flag laws that ensure due process protections. Preventing the mentally ill from using guns in yet another avoidable tragedy is bipartisan, sensible gun safety legislation that will make our cities safer and in no way compromise gun owners' rights. It's time for congress to act to reduce gun violence and the terrible toll it takes in our cities and in our nation.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief, Houston Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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