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May 4, 2019

The Honorable Karen Bass  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representative Bass and Representative Ratcliffe,

On behalf of the largest police agencies in the Nation, we must voice our strong opposition to the Secure and Fair Enforcement banking (SAFE) Act of 2019.

The intention of the SAFE act is permit banks and financial institutions to assist the marijuana industry without penalty. So long as trafficking, sale and possession of marijuana remains a Federal crime, this is an ill-advised contradiction.

Chiefs and Sheriffs from every major urban area have experienced first-hand the harm that marijuana brings to our communities. That's why our membership has voted a statement of policy to oppose such measures as the SAFE Act.

As the bill presently stands, the SAFE act only serves to provide safe harbor, legitimize and encourage more widespread use of this illegal drug. Surely Congress will recognize that such legislation can only exacerbate the already debilitating drug epidemic that sweeps our Nation.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association regrets that we must oppose this legislation because we look you for bipartisan leadership and will always support common sense legislation that will keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

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