



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 20, 2019

The Honorable Jerold Nadler
Chair, U.S. House Judiciary Committee
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member, U.S. House Judiciary Committee
1504 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing 69 of the largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies in the Nation, I would like to express our strong support for H.R. 2378, the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act.

On May 20, 2015, 29-year-old Officer Kerrie Orozco of the Omaha Police Department was shot to death while trying to arrest a gunman who was wanted in another shooting. Upon her death, she left behind a husband, two young stepchildren, and a newborn baby.

Officer Orozco's husband, Hector, came to the United States from Mexico in 1999. He has legal work status because of a visa issued in 2012 but is currently in the process of obtaining permanent citizenship, which could take as long as six years.

The Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow a surviving spouse, child or parent of a U.S. citizen who was killed in the line of duty as a first responder, to be naturalized upon compliance with all naturalization requirements, except that no prior residence or specified physical presence within the U.S. shall be required. In cases where the first responder who died on the job was not a U.S. citizen, the Department of Homeland Security would provide for the granting of posthumous citizenship. This assistance already applies to military personnel.

Officer Orozco gave her life to protect the people of her community. The Major Cities Chiefs Association encourages your support of this measure and appreciates your continuing efforts to assist the men and women of law enforcement, as well as their families.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police
Houston, Texas

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