



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Robin Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support of the *First Responder Resiliency Act of 2020*. MCCA membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and the nine largest in Canada. Collectively, the MCCA represents over 79.9 million people with a workforce of 251,082 officers and non-sworn personnel.

Our nation's first responders, including local law enforcement, all take an oath to protect and serve their communities. Being responsible for ensuring the public's safety is no simple task and can impact first responders in a variety of ways. MCCA has long advocated for a holistic approach to officer health and wellness that addresses not only the physical, but the mental and emotional effects of the job as well. By removing the "local match" requirement for job-related mental health grant proposals, the *First Responder Resiliency Act of 2020* can help ease the financial burden on local departments and agencies looking to provide or expand mental wellness programs. Suicide rates among first responders, especially law enforcement officers, are far too high and more must be done to ensure these dedicated public servants have the resources they need to do their jobs.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and wellness of our nation's first responders. MCCA looks forward to working with you to advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at art.acevedo@houstonpolice.org if we can be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,

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

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