



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley,

I write to express the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for the *Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020*. The 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.

Local law enforcement has continued to ensure the safety of our communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, oftentimes putting themselves at significant risk of infection. There have already been thousands of COVID-19 infections among law enforcement and close to 100 deaths. It's an unfortunate inevitability that those numbers will continue to rise. The presumption created by the *Safeguarding America's First Responders Act* will ensure law enforcement personnel who succumb to COVID-19 are eligible for benefits under the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program. It is only right that these brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice receive the benefits they are entitled to without unnecessary delays or complications.

Thank you for all your support for local law enforcement throughout this crisis. The MCCA looks forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [art.acevedo@houstonpolice.org](mailto:art.acevedo@houstonpolice.org) if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Albuquerque  
Arlington  
Atlanta  
Aurora  
Austin  
Baltimore  
Baltimore Co.  
Boston  
Buffalo  
Calgary, Canada  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Chicago  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dallas  
DeKalb Co.  
Denver  
Detroit  
Edmonton, Canada  
El Paso  
Fairfax County  
Fort Worth  
Fresno  
Honolulu  
Houston  
Indianapolis  
Jacksonville  
Kansas City  
Las Vegas Metro  
Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Co.  
Louisville  
Memphis  
Mesa  
Miami  
Miami-Dade  
Milwaukee  
Minneapolis  
Montgomery Co.  
Montreal, Canada  
Nashville  
Nassau Co.  
New Orleans  
New York City  
Newark  
Oakland  
Oklahoma City  
Omaha  
Orlando  
Ottawa, Canada  
Peel Region, Canada  
Philadelphia  
Phoenix  
Pittsburgh  
Portland  
Prince George's Co.  
Raleigh  
Sacramento  
Salt Lake City  
San Antonio  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Seattle  
St. Louis  
Suffolk Co.  
Tampa  
Toronto, Canada  
Tucson  
Tulsa  
Vancouver, Canada  
Virginia Beach  
Washington  
Wichita  
Winnipeg, Canada  
York, Canada