



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for the *Driving for Opportunity Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. MCCA members represent over 79.9 million people and a workforce of 251,082 officers and non-sworn personnel.

The MCCA firmly believes that suspending an individual's drivers' license should not be based on his or her ability to pay a fee or fine. Instead, suspensions should be the result of engaging in behavior that represents a threat to public safety, such as impaired driving or excessive speeding. In fact, several MCCA member cities already have enacted laws that are aligned with this policy position.

Looming reductions to law enforcement budgets across the nation will require that resources be better directed to activities that have a significant impact on combatting crime and ensuring the safety of our communities. By encouraging states to eliminate drivers' license suspensions for unpaid fines and fees, the *Driving for Opportunity Act* will help ensure law enforcement's traffic related operations can focus primarily on preventing dangerous behaviors. The bill will also help limit unnecessary law enforcement interactions with the public, especially members of disenfranchised communities.

Thank you for your support of law enforcement and leadership on this issue. The MCCA stands ready to work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

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

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