



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 23, 2020

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Feinstein,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support of the S. 4612, the *Methamphetamine Response Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Collectively, MCCA members represent over 79.9 million people.

While combatting the opioid crisis has rightly been a top counter-drug priority for the past few years, it is far from the only drug related threat facing our nation. In fact, the use of psychostimulants, especially methamphetamines, continues to plague communities across the country. For example, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment, methamphetamine reports to the National Forensic Laboratory Information System has increased 87% since 2010. The increased availability of this drug has had tragic consequences, with the overdose rate involving psychostimulants increasing nearly five-fold since 2012.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, respondents to DEA's 2017 National Drug Threat Survey indicated that methamphetamine is the drug most likely to be involved with violent crime.<sup>2</sup>

The *Methamphetamine Response Act* will help ensure the United States has a national, whole-of-government, strategy to fight the scourge of methamphetamines that meets the needs of our communities and enhances public safety. The bill requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to conduct a strategic assessment of the threat and develop a plan to reduce supply and demand and expand treatment and prevention programs. Requiring the ONDCP Director to designate a coordinator who is responsible for directing the plan's implementation and facilitating information sharing amongst all relevant stakeholders will also help promote cooperation between local law enforcement and our federal partners.

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<sup>1</sup>“2019 National Drug Threat Assessment,” *Drug Enforcement Administration*, December 2019.  
<[https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020\\_Low\\_Web-DIR-007-20\\_2019.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-DIR-007-20_2019.pdf)>

<sup>2</sup>“2017 National Drug Threat Assessment,” *Drug Enforcement Administration*, October 2017.  
<[https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/DIR-040-17\\_2017-NDTA.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/DIR-040-17_2017-NDTA.pdf)>

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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 any other assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Art Acevedo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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