



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 22, 2021

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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), a professional association of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada, to register our strong support for S.878, the *Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2021*.

Over the past few years, our Nation has experienced an increase in violent crime. Many MCCA members have reported that this rise has been driven in part by an uptick in gun violence. To help address this threat, the MCCA issued a Firearms Violence Policy in 2018, which outlined many sensible reforms, including establishing harsher penalties for and aggressively prosecuting straw purchasers.

The *Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2021* will help law enforcement address the challenges posed by straw purchasing and firearms trafficking. Dangerous individuals and those prohibited by law from possessing a firearm can utilize these methods to get around the existing protections in our current system. Making it a federal crime to act as a straw purchaser of firearms will ensure those who engage in this behavior can be held accountable. Furthermore, the strong penalties included in the bill will serve as a powerful deterrent.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and for reintroducing this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Calgary, Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
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York Region, Ontario