



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 13, 2021

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The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cuellar and Congressman Gonzalez,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 2839, the *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act*. The MCCA is a professional association of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Several MCCA members are located directly on, or close to, the southern border. These Chiefs are intimately familiar with the impact that the humanitarian, security, and other challenges associated with migrant surges can have on local communities. The MCCA commends you for eschewing politics and working together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our country can better address these challenges.

Several provisions in the *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act* will improve the ability of the federal government to respond to migrant surges at the border. For example, it creates regional processing centers that will enhance the federal government's capacity to humanely detain and care for migrants, including families and unaccompanied children. The new criteria outlined in the bill for serving as a sponsor for unaccompanied children will further protect these children, who are already in an extremely vulnerable situation. Finally, the legislation authorizes additional DOJ and DHS staffing and establishes several pilot programs that will assist with securing the border, working through the backlog of immigration cases in our courts, and processing future asylum and credible fear claims more efficiently.

The *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act* will also help reduce the impact migrant surges have on local communities. By requiring DHS to give local governments advance notice before transferring migrants to facilities in their jurisdiction, the bill will ensure that local governments can execute some measure of advanced planning. The legislation will specifically reduce the burden on local law enforcement by allowing DHS to transport migrants directly to facilities run by non-governmental or private sector organizations, limiting the need for local law enforcement agencies to provide security and other services associated with these transfers.

Our membership stands ready to work with you to advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [art.acevedo@miami-police.org](mailto:art.acevedo@miami-police.org) if the MCCA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Art Acevedo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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