



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 21, 2021

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The Honorable John Rutherford
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Al Lawson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Rutherford, Lawson, Katko, and Watson Coleman,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for H.R. 3172, the *HELPER Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA is a strong proponent of community and relational policing. These approaches help build the mutual trust and respect between law enforcement and the public that help make our communities safer. MCCA members have adopted many community and relational policing strategies, including encouraging officers to live in the communities they serve. However, this can be challenging in some MCCA member cities since it can be difficult for officers to find affordable housing.

The *HELPER Act* would help address this challenge by giving law enforcement officers the ability to obtain a low-interest, fully insured home loan. Equally as important, this legislation would help ensure that officers who have continued to serve their communities, without hesitation, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, a spike in violent crime, and numerous other challenges, have access to affordable housing.

Thank you for your continued support of our country's brave law enforcement officers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

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

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