



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 21, 2021

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The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn and Senator Coons,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for the *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA has long advocated for common sense criminal justice reform that properly balances providing relief to non-violent offenders while ensuring those individuals who represent a threat to public safety are held accountable for their actions. The *Begin Again Act* is an example of reform that achieves this balance.

Under current law (18 U.S.C. §3607), an individual can have a simple possession offense expunged from their criminal record if they meet specific criteria, including being 21 years of age or younger at the time of the offense. When looking at the criteria together for expungement as a whole, it becomes clear that the current age limit is an arbitrary cutoff. Individuals who can meet the rest of the stringent requirements in 18 U.S.C. §3607 should be eligible to have the simple possession offense on their record expunged, regardless of how old they are. By removing the age requirement currently in statute, the *Begin Again Act* will help make our criminal justice system fairer and more equitable.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue. 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