



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

October 5, 2021

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The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada, thank you for holding today's hearing on the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*.

Current law prohibits individuals under a restraining order or convicted of a crime of domestic violence against their current or former spouse, cohabitant, or an individual with whom they share a child from possessing a firearm. This has created a "boyfriend loophole," where perpetrators of domestic violence are still eligible to purchase a firearm because their victim did not fall into one of these categories.

Sadly, there have been far too many cases where these offenders used these firearms to commit further violence. As such, the MCCA has consistently advocated for closing the "boyfriend loophole." For example, the Association's 2018 Firearms Violence Policy called for strengthening the definitions of prohibited purchasers related to domestic violence cases and implementing strict judicial procedures for appeal and reinstatement.

Congress must address the "boyfriend loophole" as part of the next VAWA reauthorization. The MCCA remains committed to working with all stakeholders to close the "boyfriend loophole" in a way that ensures public safety and upholds due process and other rights. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any additional 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.
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York Region, Ontario