



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

October 20, 2021

Albuquerque
Arlington TX
Atlanta
Aurora
Austin
Baltimore
Baltimore Co.
Boston
Buffalo
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Chicago
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
DeKalb Co.
Denver
Detroit
El Paso
Fairfax Co.
Fort Worth
Fresno
Honolulu
Houston
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Las Vegas
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Los Angeles Co.
Louisville
Memphis
Mesa
Miami
Miami-Dade
Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Montgomery Co.
Nashville
Nassau Co.
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Orlando
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
Portland
Prince George's Co.
Raleigh
Sacramento
Salt Lake City
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
Seattle
St. Louis
St. Louis Co.
Suffolk Co.
Tampa
Tucson
Tulsa
Virginia Beach
Washington DC
Wichita

The Honorable Val Demings
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Demings and Representative Bacon,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 5615, the *Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) provides critical resources that bolster law enforcement's ability to mitigate and respond to a variety of public safety threats. The MCCA is a strong supporter of this grant program, and nearly every UASI jurisdiction is an MCCA member. FEMA conducts an annual risk assessment to determine which jurisdictions receive UASI funding. As a result, there are several jurisdictions, including a few MCCA members, whose eligibility changes every few years.

In today's budgetary environment, losing UASI funding may put vital capabilities at risk, even as the threats facing our communities become more complex. The *Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act* will help address this challenge. The legislation requires FEMA to develop a plan to make funding available to jurisdictions that lose UASI eligibility and need assistance to preserve UASI-funded capabilities. These additional resources will provide these jurisdictions with additional time to transition these capabilities to alternative funding streams.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of UASI. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Jeri Williams
Chief, Phoenix 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