



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

November 1, 2021

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

Dear Rep. Demings,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our strong support for H.R. 5768, the *VICTIM Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Nearly every major city in the United States is contending with a rise in violent crime. According to the MCCA's most recent Violent Crime Survey, comparing midyear 2020 with midyear 2021, homicides are up roughly 20% in major cities. In addition, most MCCA members have reported significant increases in gun violence, evidenced by the uptick in aggravated assaults.

The grants authorized in the *VICTIM Act* will help law enforcement agencies overcome some of the challenges associated with responding to the current increase in violent crime. More specifically, this bill will provide law enforcement with critical resources to address staffing challenges, enhance their forensics capabilities, further deploy investigative technologies, and provide services to victims of violent crime and their families.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for our brave law enforcement officers. The MCCA stands ready to help advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: Rep. Cindy Axne, Rep. Dwight Evans, Rep. Robin Kelly, Rep. Lucy McBath, Rep. Tom O'Halleran