



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

November 4, 2021

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

Dear Representative Katko,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for H.R. 5797, the *SERVE Our Communities 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. Numerous factors have contributed to this increase, including state bail reform laws and the failure of other components of the criminal justice system to hold violent offenders accountable. While the MCCA strongly supports providing relief to non-violent offenders, individualized risk assessments must be a part of bail and pretrial release decisions. Current reform efforts, however, have gone too far and negatively impacted public safety. For example, not holding violent offenders pretrial, or releasing them on low bonds, eliminates a critical deterrent and contributes to retaliatory cycles of violence.

States must have policies in place that allow courts to factor an individual's dangerousness into bail or pretrial release decisions to receive the anti-recidivism grant funding included in the *SERVE Our Communities Act*. This funding will provide a strong incentive for states to help law enforcement address the challenges above. The additional grant eligibility requirements will also assist ongoing efforts to combat violent crime.

Thank you for your support of our brave law enforcement officers. 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

Cc: Rep. Andrew Garbarino
Rep. Chris Jacobs
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Rep. Tom Reed
Rep. Elise Stefanik
Rep. Claudia Tenney
Rep. Lee Zeldin

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