



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

January 12, 2022

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The Honorable Tom Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rice and Representative Spanberger,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 6375, the *COPS on the Beat Grant Program Reauthorization and Parity Act of 2022*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The past few years have been one of the most challenging times in law enforcement history. Police officers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. Budgetary and other challenges have also made it more difficult for agencies to recruit and retain qualified officers, which has further compounded this attrition. Nearly every MCCA member agency is understaffed, and several are short hundreds of officers.

Local law enforcement agencies utilize COPS grants for a variety of critical purposes, including hiring law enforcement officers. In light of the challenges described above, these grants have never been more important. However, the COPS grant program has not been officially authorized in more than a decade. The *COPS on the Beat Grant Program Reauthorization and Parity Act of 2022* will provide a much-needed increase in the authorized funding for these grants. The bill will also formally reauthorize the COPS grant program, thereby providing increased stability and ensuring this new, enhanced funding level is maintained for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of our country's brave law enforcement officers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Laura Cooper
Executive Director
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