



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 1, 2022

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The Honorable David Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Cicilline and Rep. Upton,

I write to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for H.R. 6538, the *Active Shooter Alert Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Tragically, active shooter incidents are becoming more prevalent across the United States. According to the FBI's most recent report on this topic, there were 40 active shooter incidents in the U.S. in 2020. This is a 33% increase from 2019 and a 100% increase from 2016.¹

Local law enforcement is on the front lines of any response to an active shooter incident. These incidents are dynamic, and law enforcement must have the ability to easily transmit relevant updates to the public. The *Active Shooter Alert Act* will help ensure every law enforcement agency has this capability by establishing an AMBER Alert-like network to disseminate alerts regarding active shooter incidents. Not only will this help keep the public safe, but it will also limit instances where bystanders may inadvertently interfere with law enforcement's response. In addition, the use of the network is voluntary, guaranteeing that law enforcement has the flexibility to choose the best course of action given the unique needs of their community and the specifics of the incident.

The MCCA stands ready to help advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of 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

¹ "Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2020," *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, July 2021.
< <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2020-070121.pdf/view> >