



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2022

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jodi Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Ernst, Senator Durbin, and Senator Murkowski,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 3623, the *Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Reauthorizing the programs established by the *Violence Against Women Act* is long overdue. This legislation will provide critical resources to support survivors of domestic violence. It also includes additional tools to assist law enforcement with responding to, investigating, and prosecuting domestic violence crimes.

However, the MCCA is incredibly disappointed that this VAWA reauthorization does not close the “boyfriend loophole.” Under current law, individuals who are subject to a final protective order or convicted of a crime of domestic violence are prohibited from possessing a firearm if their victim was a current or former spouse, cohabitant, or an individual with whom they share a child. This has created a “boyfriend loophole,” where some perpetrators of domestic violence are still able to possess a firearm because their victim did not fall into one of these specific categories.


Sadly, there have been far too many cases where these individuals used these firearms to commit further violence against their victims, others in the community, and law enforcement officers. The MCCA strongly believes that an adjudicated perpetrator of domestic violence, regardless of their relationship to the victim, should not be permitted to continue to possess a firearm.

Closing the “boyfriend loophole” has been an MCCA priority for many years. Simply put, this common-sense reform will improve public safety. Therefore, as the *VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022* moves through the legislative process, the MCCA strongly urges Congress to add a provision that closes the “boyfriend loophole.”

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Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario

Thank you for your continued leadership and eschewing politics to work together in a bipartisan manner on this critical topic. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeri Williams".

Jeri Williams
Chief, Phoenix Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association