



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2022

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

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Demings and Rep. Fletcher,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to express our strong support for H.R. 6768, which will reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Effective communications play a critical role in coordinating and executing the law enforcement and public safety response to an emergency. FirstNet facilitates these communications by providing a national broadband communications network that promotes interoperability between police, fire, EMS, and other first responders. The MCCA worked tirelessly as an original supporter of the legislation that established FirstNet and has continued to support efforts to strengthen the national network.

The legislation that initially created FirstNet included a 15-year sunset provision. A recent GAO report recommended that Congress reauthorize FirstNet and warned that a failure to do so would place network operations and improvements at risk and could result in public safety users losing access. This cannot be allowed to happen, especially as communities across the country contend with a variety of public safety threats, including violent crime, extreme weather, and other emergencies. H.R. 6768 will eliminate the sunset provision, thereby ensuring FirstNet can continue its work to enhance the communications technology and infrastructure first responders rely on to keep us safe.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of further 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.  
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