



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 31, 2022

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The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons and Senator Blunt,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for the S. 3975, the *Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA) Reauthorization Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Abusing a child is one of the most heinous crimes an individual can commit. Preventing and responding to these crimes is a priority for MCCA member agencies, and we'll continue to do everything in our power to keep the children in our communities safe.

Children's Advocacy Centers coordinate comprehensive, multidisciplinary responses that help ensure perpetrators of child abuse are held accountable, and victims receive the support and services they need. The authorization that funds these centers is set to expire in Fiscal Year 2023. The vital services that Children's Advocacy Centers provide cannot be allowed to lapse. The *VOCAA Reauthorization Act* will ensure this does not happen by reauthorizing these programs through Fiscal Year 2028. This legislation will also increase the authorized funding level from \$16 million to \$45 million. This will enhance the capacity and capability of Children's Advocacy Centers to support the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of child abuse and provide treatment and other assistance to victims of these horrific crimes.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical 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