



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 05, 2022

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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to thank you for including H.R. 1924, the *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act*, as part of today's markup. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Under current law (18 U.S.C. §3607), individuals who meet specific criteria can have a simple possession offense expunged from their criminal record. The requirements are stringent and include having no prior federal or state controlled substance offenses and complying with all terms of a yearlong prejudgment probation. The individual also must have been under 21 years of age at the time of the offense. When looking at the overall criteria for expungement, it becomes clear that the age limit is an arbitrary cutoff. H.R. 1924 will address this shortcoming by removing the current age cap in 18 U.S.C. §3607.

Throughout the ongoing policy debates on criminal justice reform, the MCCA has continuously held that these efforts must properly balance relief for non-violent offenders with holding violent and repeat offenders accountable. This is incredibly important considering the ongoing rise in violent crime in many major cities throughout the United States. The *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act* strikes this balance.

The MCCA encourages the Committee to support H.R. 1924 during today's markup. 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.
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