



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 27, 2022

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The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse and Senator Cornyn,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 4091, the *Overdose Review Team Act*. The MCCA is a professional association of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Drug overdoses, especially those involving fentanyl-related substances and other synthetic opioids, continue to plague communities throughout the United States. According to the CDC, between November 2020 and November 2021, an estimated 106,854 people died due to a drug overdose. Furthermore, several MCCA member cities have recently experienced mass overdose incidents in their jurisdictions.

The MCCA believes that the response to drug overdoses must properly balance public safety and public health. The *Overdose Review Team Act* will enhance both elements of the response by providing resources for multidisciplinary teams to coordinate overdose investigations and develop policy recommendations and best practices to prevent future overdoses. Many MCCA members already utilize "shoot review" teams after a violent crime occurs. The teams funded via the grants in the legislation can build upon the success of this model to connect victims of drug overdoses with services and treatment and ensure those who supply the illicit substances leading to these overdoses are held accountable.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. 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
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