



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 19, 2022

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The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 4287, the *COPS Parity Act of 2022*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Police officers are leaving the profession at an alarming rate. Budgetary and other challenges have also made it more difficult for agencies to recruit and retain qualified officers, which has further compounded this attrition. Nearly every MCCA member agency is understaffed, and several are short hundreds of officers. Understaffing has produced operational, logistical, leadership, and other challenges for law enforcement. Local law enforcement agencies utilize COPS grants for a variety of critical purposes, including hiring law enforcement officers. However, the COPS Office, which administers these grants, has never been authorized in statute. The *COPS Parity Act of 2022* will address this shortcoming by formally creating the COPS Office. COPS grants have never been more important considering the challenges described above, and the COPS Office's authority to manage these grants should undoubtedly be codified in law.

Thank you for your continued support of America's brave law enforcement officers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

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

CC: The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Chris Coons