



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 22, 2022

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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

I write today to register the Major Cities Chiefs Association's (MCCA) support for the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA has long been an advocate for sensible firearms policy. In 2018, the MCCA membership voted to adopt a Firearms Violence Policy. This policy includes several common-sense reforms that will help keep communities safe while upholding the 2nd Amendment and protecting due process. The *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* also strikes this balance, and there is a significant overlap between the legislation and the MCCA's Firearm Violence Policy. For example, the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* will provide resources to help improve the NICS system, support the development and implementation of extreme risk protection orders and other crisis intervention tools, make straw purchasing and gun trafficking explicit federal crimes, and take steps to ensure perpetrators of domestic violence do not have access to firearms. The MCCA firmly believes that the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* will help save lives.

MCCA members have an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing our communities with respect to gun violence. While the policies included in the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* are important, they will not address all the challenges contributing to the daily incidents of gun violence in America's major cities. There will still be loopholes and gaps in our laws that criminals and other individuals who pose a threat to public safety can exploit to obtain firearms. The bill also does not address the emergence of new threats, like ghost guns and auto sears, that continue to pose a challenge for local law enforcement.

While the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* is a crucial first step, this legislation cannot mark the end of Congressional efforts to address the gun violence plaguing communities throughout the country. The MCCA strongly encourages Congress to take additional action and advance all the reforms included in the MCCA's Firearms Violence Policy. Instituting these reforms while protecting Constitutional rights and due process are not mutually exclusive.

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Edmonton, Alberta
Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario

The MCCA commends Sen. Murphy, Sen. Cornyn, Sen. Tillis, Sen. Sinema, and all the other Senators involved in the bipartisan negotiations for eschewing politics and coming together to take the first step toward addressing one of the most significant threats facing our great nation. The MCCA urges you to bring the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act* to the floor for a vote as expeditiously as possible and encourages every Senator to support this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeri Williams".

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