



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 13, 2022

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Toronto, Ontario  
Vancouver, B.C.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
York Region, Ontario

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our opposition to amendment #361 to H.R. 7900, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA is a strong supporter of the 1033 Program. It provides local law enforcement with critical equipment that is used to respond to a range of public safety threats, including natural disasters, terrorist attacks, active shooters, and other emergencies. The 1033 Program will continue to be a valuable resource, especially as communities across the country continue to contend with an uptick in extreme weather and increases in violent crime and gun violence.

Amendment #361 would dramatically limit access to life-saving equipment and place onerous administrative burdens on local law enforcement agencies. This is not the best solution to the concerns that some have raised about the 1033 Program. The MCCA has continuously advocated for increasing transparency and incorporating additional oversight and accountability measures into the program, which would more effectively address these concerns. Communities certainly have a right to know what equipment is being provided and for what purposes.

Finally, this amendment contradicts efforts already underway to improve the 1033 Program. A section of President Biden's recent Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety included several reforms to the 1033 Program. Implementing these provisions represents a better path forward than advancing amendment #361. The policies in the executive order strike the proper balance and will promote transparency and accountability without significantly restricting the 1033 Program. Furthermore, they are supported by a diverse set of stakeholders, including law enforcement organizations, civil rights and civil liberties groups, and community advocates.

The MCCA encourages the House to reject amendment #361.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeri Williams".

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