



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 20, 2022

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The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Thank you for focusing today's hearing, "After the Highland Park Attack: Protecting Our Communities from Mass Shootings," on assault weapons.

The MCCA has long advocated for sensible firearms and gun safety policies. In 2018, the Association adopted a Firearms Violence Policy that consists of several common-sense reforms, including banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Many law enforcement officials have closely studied assault weapons and firearms with high-capacity magazines and determined they have no reasonable sporting or hunting purpose.

Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are undoubtedly contributing to the increase in the number of bullets used in many recent shootings. They are also a significant threat to law enforcement officers responding to violent crimes. The suspect who killed NYPD Detectives Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora in January 2022 used a firearm with a high-capacity magazine that allowed his gun to hold 40 additional rounds.

Congress banned assault weapons and high-capacity magazines as part of the *Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*, but the ban had a ten-year sunset provision. The MCCA urges Congress to pass legislation to reinstitute this ban and hopes that today's hearing will help advance that goal.

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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