



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 27, 2022

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

Dear Ranking Member Grassley,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 4628, the *Combatting Violent and Dangerous Crime Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

MCCA members continue to respond to a rise in violent crime in their jurisdictions. The MCCA's most recent Violent Crime Survey showed that homicides in the first quarter of 2022 are up approximately 56%, and aggravated assaults increased by roughly 22% compared to the first quarter of 2019. Failures within the criminal justice system to hold violent offenders accountable have complicated law enforcement's response to the uptick in violent crime. Given these challenges, MCCA members have found pursuing federal charges for violent offenders to be a successful strategy. The *Combatting Violent and Dangerous Crime Act* will support these efforts by providing law enforcement with additional tools to hold these violent offenders accountable. More specifically, this legislation will update the criminal code by addressing circuit court splits, closing existing loopholes in the law, and modernizing outdated statutes.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your continued support of local law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can further assist.

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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