



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 29, 2022

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The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Meng and Rep. Higgins,

I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 8147, the *Aaron Salter Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

H.R. 8118 will prohibit civilian purchase or use of enhanced (Type III or greater) body armor. Recent tragedies have shown the challenges posed by a criminal or other dangerous individual equipped with enhanced body armor. The perpetrator of the mass shooting at the Tops Supermarket in Buffalo was wearing military-grade body armor. Retired Buffalo Police Officer Aaron Salter Jr., for whom this legislation is named, was working security at Tops the day of the shooting. He engaged the shooter and hit him with at least one round. However, this did not impact the shooter because he was wearing enhanced body armor and, as a result, was able to continue his violent attack.

The *Aaron Salter Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act* also contains several exceptions to ensure that those individuals who still need to access enhanced body armor can do so. For example, individuals acting under the authority of a government entity or qualified active duty and retired law enforcement officers are exempt from the provisions of this bill. Furthermore, H.R. 8118 does not apply to any enhanced body armor lawfully possessed before this bill is enacted.

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

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