



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 21, 2022

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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan,

I'm writing 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 including H.R. 5455, the *Terry Technical Correction Act*, in today's markup.

Although Congress reduced the federal sentencing disparity for crack versus powder cocaine offenses in 2010, the Supreme Court found that some of the least serious crack cocaine offenses were ineligible for resentencing due to an unclear definition in the statute. The *Terry Technical Correction Act* will clarify this definition, thereby ensuring that the individuals convicted of these offenses can be resentenced under the reduced disparity as Congress originally intended.

The MCCA strongly believes that Congress should eliminate the federal sentencing disparity for crack versus powder cocaine offenses. While MCCA-endorsed legislation to eliminate the disparity advanced out of this Committee and overwhelmingly passed the House on a bipartisan basis, it has unfortunately stalled in the Senate.

As Congress has not yet eliminated the disparity, the *Terry Technical Correction Act* will play an important role in addressing inequities in our criminal justice system regarding sentencing for crack cocaine offenses. The MCCA encourages all Members of the Committee to report H.R. 5455 favorably during today's markup.

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.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario