



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

January 11, 2023

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The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Stefanik,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 304, the *SERVE Our Communities Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Communities throughout the United States continue to struggle with increased violent crime. MCCA members have reported that changes to bail reform laws in many states are one of the factors driving this trend. While the MCCA strongly believes common-sense reform is needed to provide relief to non-violent offenders who pose a minimal risk to public safety, many of the recent changes have gone too far. As a result, violent offenders and repeat offenders in many major cities are frequently released on either personal recognizance or low bonds. These individuals often continue to prey on the community or are involved in cycles of retaliatory violence.

The *SERVE Our Communities Act* will help address this challenge by making grant funding available to states and localities that allow courts to factor an individual's dangerousness into bail or pretrial release decisions. This will serve as a strong incentive for jurisdictions to enact the necessary policies so judges can remand individuals who pose a threat to public safety. Importantly, this grant funding must be used to support reentry efforts, which will help fight violent crime by reducing recidivism.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued support of law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Eddie Garcia
Chief, Dallas 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

CC: The Honorable Anthony D'Esposito
The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
The Honorable Nick LaLota
The Honorable Nicholas A. Langworth
The Honorable Michael Lawler
The Honorable Nicole Malliotakis
The Honorable Marcus J. Molinaro
The Honorable George Santos
The Honorable Claudia Tenney
The Honorable Brandon Williams