



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 9, 2023

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Leader Jeffries,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) concerning H.J. Res. 26, the joint resolution of disapproval regarding the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Major cities throughout the United States, including the District of Columbia, continue to experience elevated levels of violent crime. According to the MCCA's most recent Violent Crime Survey, homicides in 2022 rose by approximately 43% compared to 2019. During this period, there was also a 35% increase in aggravated assaults.

MCCA members have indicated that a lack of accountability within other parts of the criminal justice system is contributing to the uptick in violent crime. These challenges with accountability manifest themselves in many ways. Some examples from MCCA member jurisdictions include a reluctance on the part of district attorneys to prosecute certain crimes, district attorneys and judges not following sentencing guidelines, and a failure to hold defendants who pose a threat to public safety pre-trial. This has produced a situation where repeat and violent offenders are cycling through the criminal justice system facing no consequences for their actions.

The MCCA is a strong supporter of common-sense criminal justice reform. The Association has worked tirelessly to advance policies that ameliorate historical shortcomings and make the criminal justice system more equitable for all Americans without jeopardizing public safety. However, the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, which is the subject of H.J. Res. 26, would be detrimental to public safety and exacerbate the accountability challenges described above. For example, this legislation would reduce the penalties for serious and violent crimes, such as robberies, carjackings, and home invasion burglaries. It would also reduce the penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In her letter announcing her veto of the bill, Mayor Bowser stated her belief that the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 would make Washington D.C. less safe. The MCCA agrees with her assessment.

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

The MCCA looks forward to working with Congress on future criminal justice reform efforts that properly balance providing relief for non-violent offenders and upholding public safety. Thank you for your continued partnership on this and the MCCA's other priorities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Garcia', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eddie Garcia
Chief, Dallas Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association