



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 6, 2023

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The Honorable John H. Rutherford  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Rutherford,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 743, the *Protect and Serve Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

This legislation is deeply personal for the MCCA and our law enforcement colleagues. In recent years, there has been a rise in violence directed toward law enforcement officers. While the most current available FBI data indicates that the number of officers who were feloniously killed in 2022 decreased compared to 2021, these numbers are still up from 2020 and 2019. The attacks on America's brave law enforcement officers must stop immediately.

The *Protect and Serve Act of 2023* creates a new federal offense for knowingly assaulting a law enforcement officer and gives DOJ the authority to adopt these cases if specific criteria are met. This will serve as a strong deterrent and help ensure that those who perpetrate these violent attacks are held accountable. The bill also contains important protections to ensure DOJ only utilizes this new statute when it is appropriate.

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

Cc: The Honorable Jared F. Golden  
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer

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

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
The Honorable Pete Stauber  
The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik