



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 13, 2023

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The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Cornyn, Sen. Feinstein, Sen. Graham, and Sen. Klobuchar,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 499, the *Debbie Smith Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Due to resource shortages and surging evidence submissions, thousands of items of evidence from sexual assaults and other violent crimes sit untested in crime labs and on evidence storage shelves in law enforcement agencies nationwide. Each one of these items holds the potential to solve a crime and prevent future violence, ensuring the perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable and their victims receive justice.

The *Debbie Smith Act*, which was first signed into law in 2004, provides resources to state and local crime labs to increase analytical capacity, reduce DNA evidence backlogs, and process offender DNA samples. Many jurisdictions also use this funding to support DNA training and education for law enforcement and sexual assault forensic nurse training. S. 499 will reauthorize these critical grant programs for another five years.

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