



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 3, 2023

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The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Ossoff and Sen. Blackburn,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 972, the *Filling Public Safety Vacancies Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Law enforcement agencies nationwide are struggling with recruitment and retention. The challenges currently facing the profession have made it difficult to find individuals interested in a career in law enforcement. Attrition also remains high as current officers continue to retire or leave MCCA agencies for smaller departments. As a result, nearly every MCCA member is understaffed. This has created many operational and logistical challenges at a time when law enforcement is working tirelessly to address increased violent crime and other significant threats.

COPS Hiring Grants are one tool that can help law enforcement agencies address staffing challenges. The *Filling Public Safety Vacancies Act* will infuse new resources—a 50% increase from the FY 2023 enacted level—into this critical program. This funding will support ongoing efforts to hire high-quality and high-character individuals dedicated to serving their communities as law enforcement officers.

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

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Edmonton, Alberta
Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
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