



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 12, 2023

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The Honorable Joe Neguse
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Neguse,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 2898, the *Secure Background Checks Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA has long advocated for sensible firearms and gun safety policies. In 2018, the Association adopted a Firearms Violence Policy consisting of several common-sense reforms, including strengthening NICS, which is the system used to conduct a background check to determine if someone can legally purchase a firearm. To be eligible to buy a gun, individuals must meet the age requirements in federal law and any relevant age requirements in both their state of residence and the state where they are attempting to make the purchase. However, NICS does not currently check if an out-of-state purchaser meets the age requirements in their home state, which the DOJ Inspector General identified as a weakness in the system in a 2021 report.

The *Secure Background Checks Act of 2023* will help address this shortcoming by adding state-level age requirements to the list of federal prohibitors that are included in NICS checks. It is important to note that this bill does not add any additional checks to the current process or establish new requirements for obtaining a firearm. It simply closes a loophole where underage individuals who travel out of state may be able to buy a gun.

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,

Laura Cooper
Executive Director
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 Jake Auchincloss
The Honorable Robin L. Kelly
The Honorable Luis J. Correa
The Honorable Jamie Raskin
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Andre Carson
The Honorable Melanie Ann Stansbury
The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
The Honorable Madeleine Dean