



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 15, 2023

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

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

Dear Sen. Graham and Sen. Klobuchar,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 1530, the *COPS on the Beat Grant Program Parity Act of 2023*. 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.

Local law enforcement agencies utilize COPS grants for a variety of purposes, most notably hiring law enforcement officers. However, the COPS Office, which administers these grants, has never been authorized in statute. S. 1530 will address this shortcoming by formally establishing the COPS Office. COPS grants have never been more important considering the challenges described above, and the COPS Office's authority to manage these grants should undoubtedly be codified in law.

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