



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 15, 2023

Albuquerque
Arlington TX
Atlanta
Aurora
Austin
Baltimore
Baltimore Co.
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Chicago
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Detroit
El Paso
Fairfax Co.
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Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Las Vegas
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Los Angeles Co.
Louisville
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Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Montgomery Co.
Nashville
Nassau Co.
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Orlando
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
Portland
Prince George's Co.
Raleigh
Sacramento
Salt Lake City
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
Seattle
St. Louis
St. Louis Co.
Suffolk Co.
Tampa
Tucson
Tulsa
Virginia Beach
Washington DC
Wichita

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

Dear Sen. Cornyn,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 1569, the *Back the Blue Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Over the past few years, MCCA members have reported an increase in violent attacks against law enforcement officers. For example, during a six-month period last year, one MCCA member had eight officers shot in the line of duty. In another MCCA member agency, 37 shots were fired at officers during that time, but fortunately, only one officer was injured. The violence being directed toward America's brave law enforcement officers must stop immediately.

The *Back the Blue Act* includes several important protections for officers that will create a strong deterrent and help prevent future violence. For example, the legislation creates new federal crimes, with strict penalties, for killing or assaulting a law enforcement officer. S. 1569 also closes a loophole in the statute by making the killing or targeting of any, not just federal, law enforcement officer an aggravating factor in federal death penalty cases. Finally, the bill makes up to \$20 million in grant funding available to support efforts to improve the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

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 Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Ted Cruz
The Honorable Thomas Tillis
The Honorable Rick Scott
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Mike Braun
The Honorable Kevin Cramer
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Katie Boyd Britt
The Honorable Mike Crapo
The Honorable Marco Rubio
The Honorable James E. Risch
The Honorable Pete Ricketts
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable James Lankford
The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
The Honorable John Kennedy
The Honorable Tom Cotton
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable John Hoeven
The Honorable Ted Budd
The Honorable Josh Hawley
The Honorable Tim Scott
The Honorable Bill Hagerty
The Honorable Roger Marshall
The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable Joni Ernst
The Honorable Tommy Tuberville
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Todd Young
The Honorable Eric Schmitt
The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis
The Honorable Roger F. Wicker



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Don Bacon
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Bacon,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 355, the *Back the Blue Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Over the past few years, MCCA members have reported an increase in violent attacks against law enforcement officers. For example, during a six-month period last year, one MCCA member had eight officers shot in the line of duty. In another MCCA member agency, 37 shots were fired at officers during that time, but fortunately, only one officer was injured. The violence being directed toward America's brave law enforcement officers must stop immediately.

The *Back the Blue Act of 2023* includes several important protections for officers that will create a strong deterrent and help prevent future violence. For example, the legislation creates new federal crimes, with strict penalties, for killing or assaulting a law enforcement officer. H.R. 355 also closes a loophole in the statute by making the killing or targeting of any, not just federal, law enforcement officer an aggravating factor in federal death penalty cases. Finally, the bill makes up to \$20 million in grant funding available to support efforts to improve the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

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.

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

CC: The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
The Honorable Jerry L. Carl
The Honorable Dan Newhouse
The Honorable Robert E. Latta
The Honorable Andy Barr
The Honorable Mark E. Amodei
The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik
The Honorable Rick W. Allen
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis
The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler
The Honorable Daniel Meuser