



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

May 22, 2023

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The Honorable Grace Meng
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Higgins
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Meng and Rep. Higgins,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 3247, the *Aaron Salter, Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

H.R. 3247 will prohibit civilian purchase or use of enhanced (Type III or greater) body armor. Tragedies such as the mass shooting at the Tops Supermarket in Buffalo have shown the challenges posed by a criminal or other dangerous individual equipped with enhanced body armor. Retired Buffalo Police Officer Aaron Salter Jr., for whom this legislation is named, was working security at Tops the day of the shooting. He engaged the shooter and hit him with at least one round. However, the perpetrator of this heinous attack was wearing military-grade body armor and, as a result, was able to continue his violent attack.

The *Aaron Salter, Jr., Responsible Body Armor Possession Act* also contains several exceptions to ensure that individuals needing enhanced body armor can still obtain and use it. For example, qualified active duty and retired law enforcement officers or individuals acting under a government entity's authority are exempt from this bill's provisions. Furthermore, H.R. 3247 does not apply to enhanced body armor lawfully possessed before the legislation's enactment.

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

CC: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle
The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr