



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 15, 2023

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The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Rep. Meng, Rep. Velázquez, and Sen. Gillibrand,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 4172/S. 2030, the *Hate Crimes Commission Act of 2023*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

According to the most recently available FBI data, there were 12,411 hate crime offenses reported in 2021.¹ However, hate crimes are often grossly underreported, so the actual number of offenses that were committed is likely significantly higher. Furthermore, the rise in hate crimes has disproportionately impacted major cities. A recent study by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at Cal State San Bernadino found that, in 2021, hate crimes rose roughly 39% in 37 major cities and 54.5% in the ten largest cities.² This trend, unfortunately, continued throughout 2022.

Addressing the rise in hate crimes is a priority for MCCA member agencies. The *Hate Crimes Commission Act of 2023* will create a U.S. Commission on Hate Crimes, and the Commission's efforts will improve law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to hate crimes. For example, hate crimes are often underreported, and the Commission's recommendations may help address this challenge. In addition, the Commission's evaluation of community bias prevention initiatives may assist with developing alternative responses to assist victims. As the Commission carries out its work, ensuring law enforcement is adequately represented is critical, especially considering its important role in addressing hate crimes.

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

¹ "FBI Releases Supplemental 2021 Hate Crime Statistics," *FBI National Press Office*, March 13, 2023. < <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-supplemental-2021-hate-crime-statistics>>

² Masood Farivar, "US Big City Hate Crimes Spiked by 39% in 2021, Report Finds," *Voice of America News*, May 14, 2022. < <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-big-city-hate-crimes-spiked-by-39-in-2021-report-finds-/6571116.html>>

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Garcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Garcia
Chief, Dallas Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association