



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

August 7, 2023

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Nashville
Nassau Co.
New Orleans
New York City
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Oklahoma City
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Orlando
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
Portland
Prince George's Co.
Raleigh
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Salt Lake City
San Antonio
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San Francisco
San Jose
Seattle
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St. Louis Co.
Suffolk Co.
Tampa
Tucson
Tulsa
Virginia Beach
Washington DC
Wichita

The Honorable Glenn Ivey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Ivey,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 4958, the *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act*. 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 common sense criminal justice reform that properly balances providing relief to non-violent offenders while ensuring those offenders who represent a threat to public safety are held accountable for their actions. The *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act* is an example of reform that achieves this balance.

Under current law (18 U.S.C. §3607), an individual can have a simple possession offense expunged from their criminal record if they meet specific criteria, including being 21 years of age or younger at the time of the offense. When looking at the criteria for expungement as a whole, it becomes clear that the current age limit is an arbitrary cutoff. Individuals who can meet the rest of the stringent requirements in 18 U.S.C. §3607 should be eligible to have the simple possession offense on their record expunged, regardless of how old they are. By removing the age requirement currently in statute, H.R. 4958 will help make our criminal justice system fairer and more equitable.

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 Nathaniel Moran

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
The Honorable Laurel M. Lee
The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
The Honorable Madeleine Dean
The Honorable Barry Moore



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The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senator Coons and Senator Cornyn,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 2596, the *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act*. 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 common sense criminal justice reform that properly balances providing relief to non-violent offenders while ensuring those offenders who represent a threat to public safety are held accountable for their actions. The *Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act* is an example of reform that achieves this balance.

Under current law (18 U.S.C. §3607), an individual can have a simple possession offense expunged from their criminal record if they meet specific criteria, including being 21 years of age or younger at the time of the offense. When looking at the criteria for expungement as a whole, it becomes clear that the current age limit is an arbitrary cutoff. Individuals who can meet the rest of the stringent requirements in 18 U.S.C. §3607 should be eligible to have the simple possession offense on their record expunged, regardless of how old they are. By removing the age requirement currently in statute, S. 2596 will help make our criminal justice system fairer and more equitable.

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

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