



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 26, 2021

Albuquerque
Arlington TX
Atlanta
Aurora
Austin
Baltimore
Baltimore Co.
Boston
Buffalo
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Chicago
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
DeKalb Co.
Denver
Detroit
El Paso
Fairfax Co.
Fort Worth
Fresno
Honolulu
Houston
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Las Vegas
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Los Angeles Co.
Louisville
Memphis
Mesa
Miami
Miami-Dade
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
Calgary, Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn and Senator Sinema,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S.1358, the *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act*. The MCCA is a professional association of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Several MCCA members are located directly on, or close to, the southern border. These Chiefs are intimately familiar with the impact that the humanitarian, security, and other challenges associated with migrant surges can have on local communities. The MCCA commends you for eschewing politics and working together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our country can better address these challenges.

Several provisions in the *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act* will improve the ability of the federal government to respond to migrant surges at the border. For example, it creates regional processing centers that will enhance the federal government's capacity to humanely detain and care for migrants, including families and unaccompanied children. The new criteria outlined in the bill for serving as a sponsor for unaccompanied children will further protect these children, who are already in an extremely vulnerable situation. Finally, the legislation authorizes additional DOJ and DHS staffing and establishes several pilot programs that will assist with securing the border, working through the backlog of immigration cases in our courts, and processing future asylum and credible fear claims more efficiently.

The *Bipartisan Border Solutions Act* will also help reduce the impact migrant surges have on local communities. By requiring DHS to give local governments advance notice before transferring migrants to facilities in their jurisdiction, the bill will ensure that local governments can execute some measure of advanced planning. The legislation will specifically reduce the burden on local law enforcement by allowing DHS to transport migrants directly to facilities run by non-governmental or private sector organizations, limiting the need for local law enforcement agencies to provide security and other services associated with these transfers.

Our membership stands ready to work with you to advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at art.acevedo@miami-police.org if the MCCA can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Art Acevedo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Art Acevedo
Chief, Miami Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association