



# Major Cities Chiefs Association Major County Sheriffs' Association



October 19, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Leahy:

We write to express our commitment to work with Congress on measures to prevent crime and violence, but we are concerned that S 2146 is not an effective approach. While we applaud measures to protect the public from repeat, violent predators, we cannot support further cuts in funding that weaken State and local agencies. We know that the Judiciary Committee believes that efforts to stop violence in American cities must be strengthened, not weakened.

We urge you to consider alternatives to express the disapproval of Congress, without the threat of further reductions in funding for State and local law enforcement and criminal justice. The Federal grant programs subject to S 2146 now support State and local law enforcement agencies in nearly every jurisdiction in this country, including operations, crime prevention strategies and best practices in policing. S 2146 would withhold three Federal grant programs (COPS; SCAAP and CDBG) for a jurisdiction that fails to cooperate with ICE. In so doing, Congress would punish a broad array of local criminal justice agencies because of political actions by a few.

Congress should consider specific measures that focus on protection of the public from violent offenders. For example, the Judiciary Committee should examine the policies and practices of ICE that result in the release of dangerous offenders pending removal proceedings. ICE reported the release of more than 30,000 serious offenders in 2014.

We pledge our partnership and support to prevent violent crime and we urge the Committee to consider a range of options to include ICE detention of persons who pose a threat to the public we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Thomas Manger".

J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police  
Montgomery County, MD  
President  
Major Cities Chiefs Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Bouchard".

Michael Bouchard  
Sheriff  
Oakland County, MI  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Major Counties Sheriffs' Association