



March 7, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), which represents the largest Sheriff's Offices in the country and over 130 million citizens who they serve in their jurisdictions, we write to express our strong support of S.1514 and H.R.3170, the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act.

The HELPER Act would create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to make home ownership more accessible for first responders. Modeled after a successful VA home loan program, the program established by the HELPER Act would eliminate many barriers to first time homebuyers, such as a down payment and monthly mortgage insurance premiums.

Importantly, this program would make it easier for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and Pre-K schoolteachers to buy a home in the communities they serve. This would strengthen continued efforts to build trust between law enforcement and community members.

First responders dedicate their lives to protecting and serving their communities. Passing the HELPER Act will give them access to affordable housing so they can provide for their families and continue to serve their communities.

MCSA stands ready to support all efforts to pass this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Noland  
Executive Director  
Major County Sheriffs of America