



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCSA Statement on Policing Reform

It is unfortunate that recent news reports have misled the public about how and why police reform negotiations failed in Congress.

For two years Senator Tim Scott has worked diligently to develop proposals that would not only ensure professional policing reforms, but also increase the safety and security in every community across the nation. Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) commends Senator Tim Scott for his relentless work on behalf of professional police reform legislation.

Legislative proposals could diminish policing resources in many ways without specifically defunding programs. The net effect of one proposal that Senator Scott opposed was that fewer resources would be available to departments that would be unlikely to be able to immediately comply with the many new regulations. We support and encourage legislation that leads to better policing and more safety for communities, however, legislation that adds more regulations while threatening existing funding levels is setting up our law enforcement agencies for failure. If policy makes it harder for law enforcement to do their jobs well, we will only see more crime and less safety for those neighborhoods that need it most.

Unfortunately, some in Congress are letting “perfect” stand in the way of progress. We encourage key negotiators and other prominent organizations to stop perpetuating an all or nothing approach that only hurts the communities they claim to champion. As the guardians of our communities, we remain committed to continue to research, negotiate, and make improvements so that we exceed the expectations of those we are sworn to serve and protect.

We urge Members of Congress, the Administration, and our fellow law enforcement stakeholders to not give up on reform. We must embrace our role as public servants and answer our communities’ call to develop policies that improve their safety while improving their trust in us. This requires a good faith effort from all stakeholders and we will continue to contribute to this cause.

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Members of MCSA represent over 120 million Americans in more than 100 of our country’s largest and most diverse counties. We provide policing and corrections services to the nation’s largest metropolitan areas. Our members play a visible and uniquely impactful role in law enforcement and public safety.

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