



Major County Sheriffs of America

1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 | mcsheriffs.com

September 16, 2020

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The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis,

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), we write to you today in support of the Protect and Serve Act of 2020. The MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the Nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more. Collectively, we represent more than 100 million Americans.

The re-introduction of the Protect and Serve Act is greatly welcomed. The bill would create federal penalties for individuals who deliberately target local, state, or federal law enforcement officers with violence and the MCSA fully supports the passage of this just legislation.

Over the past few years, we have seen a dangerous false narrative playing out across our nation that has unabashedly cast law enforcement officials as the instigators and perpetrators of every breakdown and confrontation between the community and law enforcement. This has led to outright targeting of police as perceived righteous retaliation. That notion is both absurd and dangerous. The random and dangerous trend of ambushes against police must end. The targeting of America's police for murder is an attack on our very way of life.

Building community trust is a shared responsibility and requires open and honest engagement from both law enforcement officials and community members alike. As the only elected law enforcement leaders in the Nation, Sheriffs are held directly accountable to the public they serve and understand very well the importance of public trust.

The MCSA thanks you for your hard work and support of America's law enforcement on this issue.

Very Respectfully,

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, Middlesex County (MA)
President, Major County Sheriffs of America