



April 22, 2023

The Honorable Jim Jordan
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs
252 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, Representative Biggs, and Representative Jackson Lee:

We write to you today to encourage you to prioritize efforts to update legislation that unnecessarily regulates the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) and other less-lethal technologies. The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) represents over 110 of the largest Sheriff's Offices in the country and over 130 million Americans. Our members know firsthand the importance of allowing the use of less lethal tools like CEWs to help keep the people we serve and our personnel safe.

As you know, the current legislation that regulates CEWs and other less-lethal technologies is the *Gun Control Act of 1968* (GCA), which was passed before the taser was invented. As a result, the GCA's "firearm" definition does not match today's reality for law enforcement. As it stands, any weapon which propels an object at a particular rate of speed can be classified as a "firearm," meaning the most modern technology being used in CEWs today causes them to be regulated to the same degree as a deadly firearm.

Unfortunately, this definition will result in limits on the use of CEWs by law enforcement on the front lines and will have negative impacts on the ability of officers to de-escalate dangerous situations without the need to use greater, or even deadly force. CEWs are designed to be a non-lethal option to subdue threats and their deployment in the field has become increasingly widespread, saving countless lives in both the public and private sectors.

The existing regulations have the power to prevent law enforcement from using the tools that they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. It is up to our country's lawmakers to ensure that those on the front lines are able to continue using the best solutions and technology available to them.

Updating current federal policy may also spur innovation and accelerate a new generation of less-lethal weapons to increase opportunities for de-escalation tools to be available for law enforcement. MCSA encourages Congress to prioritize legislation that will update the existing statute and allow law enforcement the means for success in the field.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Noland
Executive Director
Major County Sheriffs of America