



February 2, 2022

Dear Members of the Georgia Senate Finance Committee,

The Metro Atlanta Chamber encourages you to support Senate Bill 361, The LESS Crimes Act, legislation that would enhance resources for our local law enforcement agencies and help ensure safe communities across Georgia. Senate Bill 361 specifically provides an avenue for individual taxpayers and corporations to directly support their local law enforcement agencies through a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit.

As a business community, we have become increasingly concerned with the rise in violent crime in metro Atlanta and throughout the state. The LESS Crimes Act would enhance law enforcement agencies' current resources and ability to drive down the current spike in crime.

The Metro Atlanta Chamber believes addressing mental health is a critical aspect of public safety, and we are encouraged that Senate Bill 361 provides funding to set up or maintain a co-responder program. These programs will allow mental health professionals to accompany officers responding to calls and help divert citizens with mental health needs from unnecessarily entering the criminal justice system.

The Metro Atlanta Chamber supports the LESS Crimes Act and respectfully requests you vote YES on Senate Bill 361. We support enhanced resources and a multiprong approach to address public safety. We appreciate this chamber's efforts to continue making Georgia a safer state for business and ask for your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 361.

Sincerely,

Dave Williams
Senior Vice President, Public Policy