



The United States Conference of Mayors

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Statement from The U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran On the Passing of Senator Ted Kennedy

Washington, D.C. – “He was 77 years old. And The United States Conference of Mayors is 77 years old.

“Through his life and through the history of our organization, he was a friend and fighter for the needs of cities and our people. So much of the progressive urban and social policy of The Conference of Mayors adopted by the nation's mayors over 40 years was originated and/or championed by Senator Kennedy.

“Presidents came and Presidents left us. Each Congress over the years was different. We had our battles with them and we had our victories. During all the political turbulence over the last 40 years, there was one thing certain -- Ted Kennedy was there for American cities.

“Today, what he said in 1980 is even more important -- we must sail against the wind and be bolder about what is truly needed for our nation and our cities, large and small.

“May his life of courage and political fierceness in support of all our people remove the timidity of some of our leaders and embolden them to go forward and address what is needed in this century of cities for all our people at this time.

“He was a people person. And let us never forget that throughout his life --- he never forgot and never quit fighting for the American people.

“And so our cause is alive as we continue in our fight for American cities and our people -- remembering him, his brothers President Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy -- most grateful for their support of mayors and cities and their close association with our great organization.

“Our prayers and deep feelings go out to the Kennedy family. We celebrate Edward Kennedy's life, and the policy of this organization he supported and championed will stand in his memory.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor. For additional information, visit www.usmayors.org.