



## **Murder Accountability Project.**

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The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
The Honorable Jon Ossoff  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

December 9, 2022

Dear Sens. Grassley and Ossoff:

The Board of Directors of the nonprofit Murder Accountability Project (MAP) has voted unanimously in support of the Justice for Murder Victims Act. Thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

The so-called “year and a day” rule is a badly outdated legal concept that can damage U.S. law enforcement’s increasingly challenged efforts to bring justice for families of murder victims. The rate at which police departments are able to clear homicides through the arrest of offenders has plummeted in recent years, dropping to just 54 percent in 2020. (See attached chart.) Elimination of this outdated impediment to prosecution will, we hope, remove an unnecessary hindrance to closing homicides. We estimate there have been more than 250,000 unsolved murders since 1980.

MAP members would be happy to testify in any committee hearing you might hold if you want more information about the growing problems of unresolved homicides and declining clearance rates.

Warmest Regards,

Thomas Hargrove  
Chairman and Founder  
Murder Accountability Project

# America's Declining Homicide Clearance Rates 1965-2020

Source: FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)

