

# TEXAS BORDER SHERIFF'S COALITION



May 30, 2017

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510 (20515)

Re: **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program**

Dear Senator Cornyn:

We are writing to request your continued support of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program. As you are aware, this nation is in the midst of a significant drug problem which threatens the future of our youth and our country as a whole. Toxic drugs such as methamphetamine, synthetics, hallucinogens and cocaine can only be mitigated through a national strategy. We are currently in the grips of a burgeoning opioid/heroin crisis. The sobering reality is that drug-induced deaths have surpassed motor vehicle deaths every year since 2009. There are 129 people dying every day as a result of drug poisoning.

The ONDCP is a key component in bringing federal, state, local and tribal governments together fostering law enforcement, treatment and prevention partnerships. ONDCP's HIDTA Program plays an essential role in the nation's drug control strategy. The success of HIDTA is touted by key stakeholders across the nation due to its ability to seamlessly operate on local, regional and national levels coordinating resources to address the drug problem. HIDTAs continue to collaborate with prevention and treatment programs.

There is a reason that leaders involved in drug policy, including major national organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, National Alliance for State Drug Enforcement Agencies, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, National District Attorneys Association, National Sheriffs Association, American Public Health Association, Association of Schools of Public Health, Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America, Community Alliances for a Drug-Free Youth and 61 other significant national organizations, sent a letter to the White House supporting ONDCP, HIDTA and the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program as critical to addressing drug policy in this country.

In West Texas, the positive impact of ONDCP and HIDTA are undeniable. HIDTA funds and coordinates 12 counties in far West Texas that adjoin 520 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico. Regional task forces which have disrupted and dismantled 36 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations in 2016.

The HIDTA Initiatives in 2016 removed 1,494 drug traffickers and violent offenders, 238 kilograms of cocaine, 498 kilograms of methamphetamine and 129 kilograms of heroin from our communities. West Texas HIDTA provides the added benefit of HIDTA training and intelligence components as well as participation in the Domestic Highway Enforcement Program and the National Emerging Threats and National Marijuana Initiatives. HIDTA provides our law enforcement agencies with nationwide connectivity with other HIDTAs, increasing the exchange of information and enhancing joint investigations. Prevention programs in our communities play a significant role in addressing the drug problem. ONDCP's Drug Free Communities (DFC) programs are evidence based examples of successful models.

On behalf of the criminal justice professionals, the Sheriff's and the citizens of our state, we ask that you support ONDCP, HIDTA and DFC. Attached is a document titled "ONDCP/HIDTA Talking Points" for your review.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Guerra  
Executive Director  
Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition