

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Mike Quigley, Chair  
Appropriations Financial Services CMTE  
2708 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Services CMTE  
Washington, DC 20515  
Office Bldg.

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Financial  
2412 Rayburn House

Dear Chair Quigley and Ranking Member Womack,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the National HIDTA Directors' Association (NHDA) to thank you for your past support of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, and to ask for your additional support for an increase in HIDTA funding in the FY2023 Budget.

The NHDA represents the 33 HIDTA regional programs, which cover all 50 states. By design, the HIDTA Program facilitates unparalleled collaboration in and among the 33 regional HIDTAs' executive boards across the country, which are comprised of an equal number of state, local, federal and tribal law enforcement agencies. The HIDTA Program provides the funding and other tools needed to motivate these agencies to focus on shared goals and solutions for addressing the Nation's deadly drug crisis.

As you know, overdose deaths have grown exponentially in recent years across the country, mainly due to the misuse of opioids. Over 75% of the 107,000 drug overdose deaths reported in 2021 involved an opioid. Further, our country is on track for 120,000 overdose deaths in 2022.

Our HIDTAs recognize that we must form and nurture partnerships with treatment and prevention professionals to provide a combined, unified response for preventing drug misuse and treating addiction. As such, the HIDTAs have entered into a dynamic relationship with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement a national Overdose Response Initiative, comprised of public health and public safety partnerships; and have developed the Overdose Mapping Application Program, known as ODMAP, which provides near real time suspected overdose surveillance data to support public safety and public health efforts in mobilizing an immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events in a specific geographic area.

Though the nature and extent of the U.S. drug crisis is evolving, we have evolved and leveraged resources as a result of our collaboration, and work efficiently and effectively. I am pleased to share that **in 2021, the HIDTA Program had a return on investment of \$100.84 for every dollar invested in our program.** Specifically, our HIDTA law enforcement initiatives seized \$740.4 million in currency from drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, and \$1.16 billion in other assets, such as jewelry, cars, and real property. **The wholesale value of the drugs HIDTA-funded law enforcement initiatives seized last year was \$26.1 billion.**

The *2021 National HIDTA Program Effectiveness Report* I have attached highlights our significant achievements in removing drugs from our neighborhoods, apprehending fugitives, and removing guns from our streets. The HIDTA Program targets large-scale drug organizations and the illicit currency they derive from the sale of their narcotics. Many of these investigations are leading to the indictment and prosecution of principal members of drug cartels. In addition to the drug and asset seizure statistics I shared above, in 2021, HIDTA-funded task forces across the country achieved the following successes:

- Took over 31,000 guns out of our communities
- Apprehended over 33,500 fugitives
- Dismantled over 200 clandestine labs, which were formulating methamphetamine, counterfeit prescription pills, fentanyl, and PCP, among other drugs.

We hope you will agree that our significant achievements and ability to grow and adapt to changes in regional and national drug use patterns and problems demonstrates that the HIDTA Program is worthy of an increase in funding. If we have more funding, we will achieve even more of the successes I described above—more drugs taken out of our communities, more guns taken from criminals, and more prevention and treatment options and openings for Americans who need them.

We are respectfully requesting your serious consideration of increasing the HIDTA Program's funding by 20%, with specific language citing that the increase will be directed to support all 33 of the HIDTAs in the form of baseline budget increases.

Each HIDTA, and the HIDTA Program as a whole, is ready to offer assistance to Members of Congress to develop new, innovative strategies; and improve upon existing strategies to address the challenges that lie



**National HIDTA Directors Association**

before us. We hope you will continue to support the good work we have done, and the even better work we will do together in the future.

Once again, thank you for your leadership and support of the HIDTA Program.

Sincerely,

F. Mike McDaniel  
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