

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Hart Senate Office Building, Rm. 530
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Whitehouse and Cornyn,

I write to you today on behalf of the National HIDTA Directors' Association (NHDA) to express our enthusiastic support of the Bipartisan Senate Bill known as the Overdose Fatality Review Team Act.

The NHDA, represents the 33 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) regional programs across the country, covering all 50 states. HIDTA unequivocally concurs with the need to establish these Overdose Fatality Review teams to address the crisis impacting communities all across the country. Our nation's overdose fatality rates are increasing at alarming rates and this is especially troubling as it relates to the increasing presence of fentanyl in various drugs and counterfeit pills. Overdose deaths have not only grown exponentially in recent years, but have spread to all geographic regions of the nation. This constitutes a crisis that demands immediate attention and we thank you for the timeliness of this legislation.

As this bill moves forward, I would ask for your consideration for these Review teams to track all overdoses, not just those ending in fatality. I believe a review of all overdoses would give these teams a more comprehensive approach in working towards more effective community engagements. I would also ask that these Review teams be strongly encouraged to use the HIDTA Overdose Mapping tracking software (OD MAPS) as a comprehensive tool in monitoring overdoses in a specific area, on a real time basis. The HIDTAs across the country stand ready to offer their assistance to these Review teams as they are implemented.

We are encouraged that these teams will bring additional resources to the HIDTAs and our partners in law enforcement, treatment, recovery, prevention and public health to fight against this contagion every day, and in every corner and facet of our American society. Your sponsorship of this legislation would provide both crucial resources and awareness to target this intensifying threat that continues to devastate vast swaths of our nation.



I sincerely thank you for your leadership on this important issue and, on behalf of the membership of the NHDA, offer our assistance in achieving this noble goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "F. Mike McDaniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

F. Mike McDaniel
President, National HIDTA Directors Association
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