



Siskiyou County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jeremiah LaRue
Sheriff-Coroner

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June 26, 2025

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0501

Dear Congressman Doug LaMalfa

As Sheriff of Siskiyou County in California and the elected official responsible for ensuring public safety in your district, I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed transfer of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (DOJ OJP) and to cut the HIDTA program funding by 35% as outlined in the Administration's FY 2026 Budget Proposal.

The Central Valley California (CVC) HIDTA supports 16 initiatives – including 12 multi-jurisdictional task forces – that enhance intelligence sharing, interdiction efforts, and investigative capacity across the Central Valley and beyond. Over 90% of HIDTA's funding goes directly to state and local law enforcement, making it indispensable to operations in high-impact areas.

I am concerned that the proposed FY2026 budget adjustments—a 35% funding reduction along with jurisdictional shift—will undermine HIDTA's proven collaborative governance model, reduce operational flexibility, and disrupt critical investigations. Under the current ONDCP framework, local agencies can design targeted responses to evolving drug threats—a capacity that may be severely limited under a more centralized DOJ structure.

I respectfully request your leadership in advocating for a reversal of this budget proposal. With your support, federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies can retain the tools, autonomy, and partnerships needed to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to working with you to preserve HIDTA's vital role in our fight against drug trafficking.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah LaRue
Sheriff- Coroner