



PROTECTING, LEADING & UNITING SINCE 1893

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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June 12, 2025

Congressman John Rutherford
United States House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rutherford,

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) to express our support for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program and its current position within the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Florida sheriffs do not support reducing HIDTA funding, which will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

As our nation continues to grapple with a devastating drug overdose crisis, ONDCP's leadership is more critical than ever. The HIDTA program has been a key component of our national drug control strategy by coordinating efforts at all levels of law enforcement—federal, state, local, and tribal—to combat the growing threats posed by drug trafficking and its consequences.

The current structure of the 33 regional HIDTAs under ONDCP leadership is a proven model of collaborative policing that has dismantled violent drug trafficking organizations. In 2024, HIDTAs removed over \$17.6 billion worth of drugs from our communities.

Simply put, this is not the time to weaken the nation's most effective multi-agency framework for addressing the threats posed by cartel-driven drug trafficking. We urge Congress to preserve ONDCP's authority over HIDTA and fully fund the HIDTA program.

Sheriffs appreciate your continued support in ensuring that the HIDTA program and ONDCP remain equipped to address the ongoing drug crisis and to protect the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Bill Prummell, Charlotte County Sheriff
President of the Florida Sheriffs Association