



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

SCOTT PELLETIER  
INTERIM DIRECTOR / COMMANDER

Scott Pelletier  
Interim Director  
Maine Drug Enforcement Agency  
45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Scott.J.Pelletier@maine.gov | 207-626-3852

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Senator Susan Collins  
68 Sewall Street, Room 507  
Augusta, ME 04330

**RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding FY2026 Budget Changes to HIDTA and ONDCP Oversight**

Dear: Senator Susan Collins,

I am a senior law enforcement executive responsible for ensuring public safety in the sixteen counties that make up the State of Maine. I am writing to express my deep concern about the President's FY 2026 Budget proposal, specifically the proposal to move the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice and to cut the program funding by 35%. I respectfully submit that this proposal will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

The current structure of the 33 regional HIDTAs under ONDCP leadership is a proven model of collaborative policing that has saved lives, dismantled violent drug trafficking organizations, and built lasting partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement. The unparalleled success of the HIDTA program is due to its regional autonomy, impartial executive board governance, and the independent oversight provided by ONDCP. HIDTA provides a unique platform for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agency partnerships throughout the nation. The record of agency collaboration speaks for itself. In 2024, more than 23,037 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agents, officers, analysts, and support personnel took part in 1,032 HIDTA initiatives. Over 67 percent of the participants were from state, local or tribal agencies.

Each HIDTA is led by an executive board that includes the key federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders in the region. This structure is especially important because it provides state and local leaders

with an equal voice in designing and implementing the most effective public safety strategies to address the prevailing drug threats and related crimes of violence in their communities.

HIDTA invests in several key public safety partnerships, including disrupting and dismantling the drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and violent gangs; creating an intelligence sharing network for the timely and accurate sharing of information, in particular drug trafficking and gun violence intelligence, among law enforcement agencies across the country; apprehending America's most wanted fugitives across the world; providing tactical training for officers to help keep safe; as well as building public safety/public health partnerships to reduce drug overdoses and save lives.

ONDCP leads and coordinates the nation's drug policy so that it improves the health and lives of the American people. The retention of the multi-faceted HIDTA program under ONDCP is essential to achieve the President's key drug policy priorities and public safety vision for America.

The State of Maine encompasses over 35,000 square miles, including 3,478 of vulnerable coastline and 611 miles of shared border with Canada. Federal, state, local and county collaboration of law enforcement efforts is crucial in combating illegal drug trafficking in such a large state, local municipal budgets are just not adequate to address the problem. As a state drug enforcement director, charged with implementing on the ground investigative strategies throughout the state, I can tell you that full HIDTA funding is crucial to state, local and county law enforcement efforts. The NE HIDTA allows much needed funding and collaboration of multi-jurisdictional enforcement across the State of Maine.

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. Law enforcement professionals across the country—and especially in the State of Maine—urge Congress to preserve ONDCP's authority over HIDTA and fully fund the HIDTA program.

I respectfully request your leadership in advocating for a reversal of this budget proposal. Your support will help ensure that federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies retain the tools, partnerships, and autonomy required to safeguard our communities.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Pelletier  
Interim Director  
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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Senator Angus King  
40 Western Ave, E.S. Muskie Federal Building, Room 412  
Augusta, ME 04330

**RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding FY2026 Budget Changes to HIDTA and ONDCP Oversight**

Dear: Senator Angus King,

I am a senior law enforcement executive responsible for ensuring public safety in the sixteen counties that make up the State of Maine. I am writing to express my deep concern about the President's FY 2026 Budget proposal, specifically the proposal to move the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice and to cut the program funding by 35%. I respectfully submit that this proposal will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Congressman Jared Golden  
6 State Street, Suite 101  
Bangor, ME 04401

**RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding FY2026 Budget Changes to HIDTA and ONDCP Oversight**

Dear: Congressman Jared Golden,

I am a senior law enforcement executive responsible for ensuring public safety in the sixteen counties that make up the State of Maine. I am writing to express my deep concern about the President's FY 2026 Budget proposal, specifically the proposal to move the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice and to cut the program funding by 35%. I respectfully submit that this proposal will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

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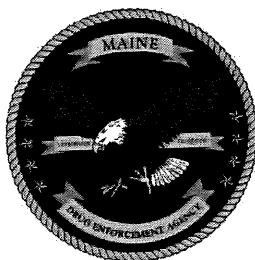
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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Congresswoman Chellie Pingree  
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 304  
Portland, ME 04101

**RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding FY2026 Budget Changes to HIDTA and ONDCP Oversight**

Dear: Congresswoman Chellie Pingree,

I am a senior law enforcement executive responsible for ensuring public safety in the sixteen counties that make up the State of Maine. I am writing to express my deep concern about the President's FY 2026 Budget proposal, specifically the proposal to move the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice and to cut the program funding by 35%. I respectfully submit that this proposal will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

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