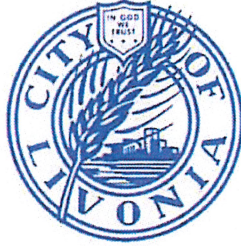


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF POLICE

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June 19, 2025

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

REQUEST TO FULLY FUND HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS

Dear Congressman Hoyer:

I currently serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Livonia Police Department and am also the President of the Southeast Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining current funding levels for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and to oppose the proposed \$102.6 million reduction in the President's Budget. Like many Chiefs and Sheriffs across the land, I have several members of my department who serve as task force officers assigned to multiple HIDTA initiatives. The HIDTA program is essential to the safety and well-being of communities throughout the United States. While this proposed reduction represents a significant cut, it also accompanies a shift in oversight, with the Administration proposing that HIDTA move from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), which we also oppose.

The HIDTA program, established in 1988, coordinates and assists federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to address regional drug threats and reduce illicit drug production and trafficking. By facilitating cooperation, sharing intelligence, and supporting coordinated enforcement strategies, HIDTA has proven indispensable in disrupting illegal drug markets and dismantling trafficking organizations.

The 2025 enacted funding level of HIDTA allocated \$298,579,000 to the program, of which 90 percent of those funds were directly utilized to support state and local law enforcement and task force operations. In the Michigan HIDTA Area of Responsibility (AOR), there are 25 federal, state, local, and tribal task forces which comprise of more than 750 analysts, officers, deputies, troopers, and agents. They work tirelessly combatting major drug trafficking organizations, money laundering organizations, and the violent crime associated with drug trafficking.

Furthermore, the Michigan HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC) is the only entity in the State of Michigan which conducts case/event deconfliction and case matching to identify separate law enforcement organizations investigating the same subject, residence, or entity, and make notification to those organizations so information can be shared, and investigative efforts not duplicated. This also ensures there are no "blue on blue" events where two or more law enforcement agencies converge on the same target. This is a one-of-a-kind officer safety program only offered by the HIDTA program.

The program's success relies on its capacity to provide reliable law enforcement intelligence and support coordinated operations that maximize the use of available resources. A reduction in funding would jeopardize these efforts and make it harder for law enforcement agencies to protect our communities.

A shift to OJP, as proposed in the budget, would hinder the dynamic and responsive management approach to HIDTA executive boards so they are able to design and carry out activities that reflect the specific drug trafficking threats found in each HIDTA region. This discretion ensures that each HIDTA Executive Board can tailor its strategy and initiatives to effectively respond to local threats. Moving HIDTA to OJP would impose constraints by having it under a federal agency.

As a local law enforcement executive committed to dismantling illegal drug trafficking, I urge you to advocate for maintaining the current level of funding for the HIDTA program and its oversight under the Office of National Drug Control Policy. HIDTA is a crucial investment in the safety and security of the American people.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Chief of Police Thomas Goralski
Livonia Police Department
President – Southeast Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police