



Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers

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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers (AONE), we express our strong support for maintaining current funding levels for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program and oppose the proposed \$102.6 million reduction in the President's Budget. 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, proposing that HIDTA oversight move from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice, which we also oppose as it will undermine the unique nature of the HIDTA program as a neutral entity supporting all law enforcement efforts.

The 2025 enacted funding level allocated \$298,79,000 to the program, of which a significant portion of those funds were directly utilized to support state and local law enforcement. By facilitating cooperation, sharing intelligence, and supporting coordinated enforcement strategies, HIDTA has proven indispensable in disrupting illegal drug markets and dismantling trafficking organizations.

In the last two years alone. The Texoma HIDTA has invested \$2.22 million directly into drug and violent crime enforcement efforts in Oklahoma. The Texoma HIDTA currently supports 10 law initiatives located in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and McAlester, Oklahoma. In 2024, these investigative initiatives arrested 530 subjects and seized 40 kilograms and 233,423 dosage units of fentanyl. In addition, these initiatives seized 1,303 kilograms of methamphetamine, \$8.08 million in US currency, and \$17.7 million in criminally derived assets. As a result of these investigations, Oklahoma HIDTA initiatives disrupted and/or dismantled 14 Drug Trafficking Organizations.

These proposed changes risks undermining HIDTA's proven model of local control over Federal funding, reduces operation flexibility, and disrupts critical investigations. The current framework empowers local agencies to develop targeted responses to evolving drug threats – flexibility that could be lost under a more centralized DOJ model.

We respectfully urge decision-makers to carefully consider the consequences of these proposed changes. HIDTA's value lies in its ability to unify federal, state, tribal, and local agencies under a neutral and cooperative structure, an essential element to sustaining public safety across Oklahoma and neighboring states.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Patricia Gibson, the President of the Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers, is written over the "Respectfully," text.

Patricia Gibson
President

Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers

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