



**San Diego County  
Police Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association  
315 Fourth Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
(619) 691-5150**

**OFFICERS**

Roxana Kennedy – President  
Chula Vista Police Department

Ray Sweeney – Vice President  
La Mesa Police Department

Christie Calderwood - Secretary  
Carlsbad Police Department

Magda Fernandez - Treasurer  
San Diego Port District Harbor PD

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jose Medina  
ATF

Anthony Coronado  
CHP, Border Division

Paul Connelly  
Coronado Police Department

Brian Clark  
DEA

Ryan Banks  
Escondido Police Department

Jeremiah Larson  
El Cajon Police Department

Houtan Moshrefi  
FBI

Alex Hernandez  
City Police Department

Taurino Valdovinos  
Oceanside Police Department

Joseph Ramos  
San Diego Community College District

Summer Stephan  
San Diego County District Attorney

Kelly Martinez  
San Diego County Sheriffs

Rich Williams  
San Diego County Sheriffs

Tamika Nelson  
San Diego County Probation

Tabatha Wilburn  
San Diego County Probation

Scott Wahl  
San Diego Police Department

Rudy Tai  
San Diego Police Department

Greg Murphy  
San Diego State University

Todd Jarvis  
San Diego Unified School District

Lamine Secka  
UCSD

Adam Gordon  
U.S. Attorney

Jeff Stalnaker  
U.S. Border Patrol

Sidney Aki  
US Customs & Border Protection

Shawn Gibson  
U.S. Homeland Sec/ICE

Joseph Freden  
U.S./ICE ERO

Steve Stafford  
U.S. Marshal

Nicholas Carter  
U.S. NCIS

Michael Payne  
U.S. NCIS

Jason Reynolds  
U.S. Secret Service, SAC

LEGAL COUNSEL James R. Touchstone

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Dave Joyce  
House Financial Services & General Government  
200 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

**REQUEST TO FULLY FUND HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS**

Dear Chairman Joyce:

On behalf of the San Diego County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, I am writing to express our 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. 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 San Diego County/Imperial region alone, ninety-nine state and local positions are funded to dismantle drug trafficking operations. Being a border region, it is imperative to maintain funding to support the local staffing of law enforcement, intelligence, prosecutors, demand reduction specialists and support positions.

Cutting HIDTA funding would undermine our ability to respond effectively to the evolving threats posed by drug trafficking, which not only harms regions but also has harmful spillover effects on surrounding areas and the country as a whole. 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.

On behalf of the San Diego County Chiefs' and Sheriff Association, 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. Should the Financial Services and General Government Committee seek testimony on the gravity of this issue, the San Diego County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association is happy to participate.

Respectfully,



Roxana Kennedy

President

San Diego County Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association