



VICTORIA'S VOICE

June 6, 2025

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Dear Chairman Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of Victoria's Voice Foundation, I write to respectfully urge the Subcommittee to preserve the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program under the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and to oppose both its proposed transfer to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the 35% budget reduction included in the Administration's FY 2026 Budget Proposal.

Victoria's Voice was founded by David and Jackie Siegel following the tragic overdose death of their daughter, Victoria. In the years since, our organization has worked tirelessly across the nation to expand access to naloxone, promote drug prevention education, and support policies that save lives. With strong bipartisan support, Congress designated June 6th as National Naloxone Awareness Day—a testament to what we can accomplish when lives, not politics, come first.

For over a decade, Victoria's Voice has proudly partnered with HIDTA programs across the country. HIDTA is not just a law enforcement initiative—it is a cornerstone in the national response to the overdose epidemic, one that uniquely integrates public health, prevention, education, and treatment into community-based drug strategies. We are deeply concerned about the implications of both the proposed shift of HIDTA from ONDCP to DOJ/OJP and the steep budget reduction. From a non-profit and citizen's perspective, these changes would have devastating consequences for families and communities across the United States. This is not just a bureaucratic reshuffle—it is a decision that will directly affect overdose response efforts, education programs, and life-saving prevention partnerships in every Congressional district.



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Our concerns include:

1. **Erosion of Balanced Partnerships:** Under ONDCP, HIDTA has maintained a neutral, non-operational structure that empowers federal, state, local, tribal, and non-profit partners to collaborate equitably. Moving HIDTA to DOJ—an operational agency—risks shifting priorities away from balanced collaboration and toward a more enforcement-heavy model, sidelining prevention and public health efforts that are critical in today's fight against addiction.
2. **Disruption of Community-Based Programs:** Victoria's Voice works with HIDTA programs that fund outreach, training, and naloxone distribution in schools, communities, and rural areas. These programs are vital. A 35% funding cut will reduce the availability of these resources, limiting our ability to reach those at risk before tragedy strikes.
3. **Loss of Localized Flexibility:** The HIDTA model allows each region to develop strategies tailored to its specific drug threats. A centralized DOJ framework may impose a “one-size-fits-all” approach that weakens the ability to adapt to emerging needs and reduces local input in critical funding decisions.
4. **Hindrance to Public Health Integration:** HIDTA's success is rooted in its ability to bridge public safety and public health. Initiatives such as the Overdose Response Strategy—where law enforcement and health professionals work side-by-side—are a direct result of this structure. These partnerships could be compromised under a new model that deprioritizes non-enforcement initiatives.
5. **Undermining What Works:** The HIDTA Program has demonstrated accountability, impact, and bipartisan support. It is one of the few national drug control programs that consistently delivers results. Altering this proven model without clear justification—and simultaneously cutting its funding—risks undoing years of progress.

Simply put, this is not just about structure or dollars—it's about people. Every day families like mine fight to prevent another name from being added to the growing list of lives lost to drug overdoses. HIDTA, in partnership with nonprofits like ours, has helped change that trajectory. Weakening this program will only set us back.



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I respectfully urge the Subcommittee to reject the proposed transfer of HIDTA to DOJ and to fully fund the program at its current level under ONDCP. Lives depend on it.

Thank you for your leadership and for your ongoing support of initiatives that protect American families from the devastation of substance use and overdose.

Respectfully,



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