



Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Inc

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The Honorable Tom Emmer
Congressman
United States House
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Opposing Proposed Budget Cuts and Transfer of the HIDTA Program

Dear Congressman Emmer,

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association to express concern regarding the proposed 35% budget cut to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program and the potential transfer of HIDTA from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). Both actions would have devastating consequences for public safety and drug enforcement across the country, particularly in Wisconsin.

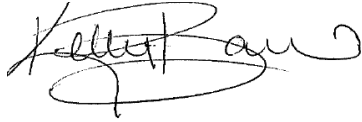
The North Central HIDTA, which serves counties across Minnesota and Wisconsin, exemplifies the program's effectiveness. In 2024 alone, it seized over \$67.8 million in drugs, removed 1,560 crime guns, and made nearly 4,800 arrests, while dismantling 80 Drug Trafficking Organizations. A 35% cut would devastate this effort, slashing funding for overtime, intelligence analysts, investigative support, and coordination among more than 150 partner agencies.

Equally concerning is the proposed transfer of HIDTA to DOJ. HIDTA's current placement under ONDCP ensures neutral oversight, giving equal voice to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement. Moving HIDTA under DOJ would reduce local control and risk turning a collaborative, evidence-based strategy into a top-down federal directive. This would cripple the very structure that allows HIDTA to be agile, locally responsive, and effective.

At a time when drug trafficking and fentanyl deaths are escalating, we cannot afford to undermine one of our most successful and cost-effective tools. HIDTA's national ROI of \$68 for every dollar spent speaks for itself.

We respectfully urge you to oppose any budget cuts to HIDTA and to preserve its neutral governance under ONDCP. The safety of our communities depends on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Bakken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelly" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Bakken" written in a more extended, flowing script. The signature is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Chief Kelly Bakken
President, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association