



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RICHARD A. RAMSAY, SHERIFF

June 11, 2025

Congressman John Rutherford
United States House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rutherford,

I am writing on behalf of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to express our deep concern about the President's FY 2026 Budget proposal, specifically the proposal to move the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice, and to cut the program by 35%. I respectfully submit that this proposal will have the unintended consequence of weakening the President's vision to build a coordinated national public safety strategy.

The current structure of the 33 regional HIDTAs under ONDCP leadership is a proven model of collaborative policing that has saved lives, dismantled violent drug trafficking organizations, and provided a unique platform that has built lasting partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. The record of agency collaboration speaks for itself. In 2024, on a national level, the HIDTAs have removed over \$17.6 billion worth of drugs from our communities.

Simply put, this is not the time to weaken the nation's most effective multi-agency framework for addressing the threats posed by cartel-driven drug trafficking. We urge Congress to preserve ONDCP's authority over HIDTA and fully fund the HIDTA program. I respectfully request your leadership in advocating for a reversal of this budget proposal.

On behalf of the Sheriffs across the state of Florida and our law enforcement leaders, we thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We appreciate your support in ensuring that the HIDTA Program and ONDCP remain equipped to address the ongoing drug crisis and to protect the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Ramsay", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Rick Ramsay
Sheriff of Monroe County

