



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: Need for Critical Funding of High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**

Dear Mr. Mfume,

I am writing in my capacity as an Executive Board Member of the Washington/Baltimore High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and as the State's Attorney of Baltimore City to express my firm and unequivocal support for maintaining current funding levels for the HIDTA program.

The HIDTA program plays a critical and irreplaceable role in protecting the safety and well-being of communities across the United States. Since its establishment in 1988, HIDTA has brought together federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners to combat regional drug threats, reduce illicit drug trafficking and production, and disrupt the violence and crime that accompany these activities. HIDTA's effectiveness is rooted in its unique structure, which fosters seamless interagency collaboration, intelligence sharing, and coordinated enforcement strategies tailored to local needs.

In FY2025, HIDTA received \$298,579,000 in federal funding—90 percent of which went directly to supporting state and local law enforcement and task force operations. These funds are not abstract line items; they directly fund personnel, investigations, technology, and vital community engagement efforts. In the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region alone—which includes 29 counties and 12 cities across Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia—this investment covers an area of over 12,000 square miles. It serves a population of more than 12 million residents.

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA works relentlessly to dismantle major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and address the associated violent crime. Our strategic position along the I-95 corridor makes our region a significant transit zone for illegal drugs and proceeds. It is precisely for this reason that

continued—and stable—funding is not just warranted but essential. Any reduction would directly jeopardize our ability to sustain the specialized staffing and coordination that has proven successful in saving lives and protecting communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to ensure that current funding levels are retained for the HIDTA program. Preserving the HIDTA program in its current form and under its current authority is imperative to our shared national mission of combating drug trafficking and protecting our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and your continued support of law enforcement and public health efforts nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. J. Bates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney