



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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July 16, 2025

The Honorable Tom Emmer, Majority Whip
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Concerns Regarding 35% Proposed Budget Reduction to HIDTA Program/ Move out from ONDCP to DOJ

Dear Congressman Emmer,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association and the 87 elected Sheriffs of Minnesota, I would like to express our support for the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and its vital mission. HIDTA has long been a critical partner to Minnesota law enforcement, promoting effective, collaborative efforts to combat drug trafficking and reduce its negative impacts on our communities.

The North Central HIDTA directly supports 17 counties and more than 150 law enforcement agencies in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In 2024, over \$8 million in funding helped our state and local task forces. The proposed budget move to DOJ's Office of Justice Programs could severely impact the HIDTA Program's collaborative and *locally* driven structure. This change risks a loss of state and local autonomy in setting priorities, a disruption of the balance to inter-agency coordination and reduced operational flexibility and long-term investigative stability.

We are also deeply concerned by the proposed FY2026 budget change of a 35% reduction in HIDTA's national budget. This change would result in an estimated \$2.8 million reduction for the North Central HIDTA which would drastically impact our ability to address regional drug threats.

We respectfully urge decision makers to carefully consider the consequences of these proposed changes. I thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to supporting our law enforcement professionals who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

Respectfully,

James Stuart
Executive Director / CEO
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association