



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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July 16, 2025

The Honorable Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

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. As you know, 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 neighborhoods and 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 as well as 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. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to supporting our law enforcement professionals who work tirelessly to keep all of our communities safe.

Respectfully,

James Stuart

Executive Director / CEO

Minnesota Sheriffs' Association