



One Municipal Drive Derry, NH 03038 www.nhchiefsofpolice.com

New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police

June 24, 2025

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United State Senator
New Hampshire

Dear Senator Hassan,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police (NHACOP), we express our strong support for the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and its vital mission in combatting drug distribution in the state New Hampshire. It is well known the transient nature of drug trafficking dictates that the illegal drugs being spread out across our state come from outside of our borders. HIDTA's key component that makes it so effective is the collaborative efforts, partnering Federal, State, and Local law enforcement, enhancing intelligence sharing, interdiction efforts and investigative capacity.

In 2024, New England HIDTA dismantled 141 drug trafficking operations including 26 international, 47 multi-state and 68 local, yielding 2980 arrests, the seizure of 599 firearms while apprehending 1173 fugitives. Funding for New England HIDTA was \$4.7 million in 2024, yet they seized over \$13 million in illegally gained cash. and assets, removing over \$55 million wholesale value of illegal drugs. There are 118 Law Enforcement agencies with 476 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers currently assigned to New England HIDTA.

We are deeply concerned by the proposed FY2026 budget changes that include a 35% reduction in funding and a structural shift from ONDCP to DOJ. These changes risk undermining HIDTA's proven collaborative governance model, reducing operational flexibility, and disrupting critical investigations. The current ONDCP framework empowers local agencies to develop targeted responses to evolving drug threats-flexibility that could be lost under a more centralized DOJ model.

We respectfully urge decision-makers to carefully consider the consequences of these proposed changes. HIDTA's value lies in its ability to unify federal, state, and local agencies under a neutral and cooperative structure. Maintaining this structure and funding is essential to sustaining public safety across New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

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