



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR
JENNIFER WEBB-MCRAE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Harold B. Shapiro
First Assistant Prosecutor

Darrin Pulman
Chief of Investigators

115 Vine Street
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302
Telephone (856)453-0486
Fax (856)451-1507

June 9, 2025

The Honorable Senator Cory Booker
Hart Senate Building
Suite 306
Washington, DC 20510
VIA EMAIL ONLY (john_doss@booker.senate.gov)

RE: Preserve HIDTA Program Under ONDCP and Oppose FY2026 Budget Cuts

Dear Senator Booker,

As a senior law enforcement executive in Cumberland County, I am writing to urge you to oppose two deeply concerning provisions in the President's FY2026 Budget Proposal: the 35% cut to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program and the transfer of HIDTA from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice. These changes threaten to dismantle the most effective multi-agency framework in place for combating cartel-driven drug trafficking and associated violence. Cumberland County became a HIDTA jurisdiction in 2022 and puts the funding we receive as a result of this designation to good use to address drug trafficking within our community.

HIDTA's placement under ONDCP ensures impartial, collaborative, and regionally responsive law enforcement strategies. The current structure—with executive boards comprising equal federal, state, and local representation—empowers us to develop and implement strategies tailored to our communities' unique drug threats. This model has a proven track record: in 2024 alone, Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA supported 31 initiatives and removed over \$102 million in narcotics and assets from our streets.

Beyond enforcement, HIDTA fosters intelligence sharing, fugitive apprehension, public health partnerships to reduce overdoses, and officer safety training—none of which can be replicated under a DOJ-led structure. Shifting HIDTA into DOJ undermines its neutrality, regional flexibility, and the public safety progress we've achieved.

Now is not the time to weaken a program that works. We respectfully request your leadership in defending ONDCP's authority over HIDTA and fully funding this essential program.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Webb-McRae". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JENNIFER WEBB-MCRAE
Cumberland County Prosecutor