

Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers' Association

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July 7, 2025

United States House of Representatives
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee members,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers Association (PNOA), 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 (DOJ). These changes threaten to dismantle the most effective multi-agency framework in place for combating cartel-driven drug trafficking and associated violence.


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 HIDTA to develop and implement strategies tailored to communities' unique drug threats. The City of Philadelphia is nationally recognized as a major distribution hub for the trafficking of fentanyl and other controlled substances, supplying drug trafficking organizations throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and other parts of the United States. Statistics have proven the policies developed and implemented by the Philadelphia based Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA Executive Board effectively counter these 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, which cannot be replicated under a DOJ-led structure. Shifting HIDTA into DOJ undermines its neutrality, regional flexibility, and the public safety progress we've achieved.

PNOA consists primarily of state and local law enforcement officers protecting the sixty-seven counties within the Commonwealth. It is important to note that over 90% of HIDTA funding goes directly to these state and local constituents.

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

Sincerely,


Phillip Holbrook
President