



June 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Texas Border Sheriff Coalition, I am writing to express our strong support for the four High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) that serve the State of Texas: Houston, South Texas, Texoma, and West Texas. HIDTA has been a longstanding and vital partner to our border Sheriffs, playing a critical role in promoting coordinated, effective efforts to combat drug trafficking and mitigate its impact on our communities.

These HIDTA programs facilitate integrated law enforcement initiatives involving federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. This collaboration enhances intelligence sharing, interdiction strategies, and investigative capabilities across the state. Notably, a significant portion of HIDTA funding is directed to state and local law enforcement agencies, making it an essential component of operations in high-impact regions.

In Calendar Year 2024, HIDTA initiatives across Texas were responsible for 7,512 arrests; the seizure of 57 kilograms and 577,461 dosage units of fentanyl; 25,420 kilograms of methamphetamine; 4,696 firearms; \$53.4 million in U.S. currency; and \$34.1 million in assets derived from narcotics trafficking and distribution. These efforts disrupted and/or dismantled 372 Drug Trafficking Organizations operating within Texas.

The Texas Border Sheriffs are deeply concerned about the proposed FY2026 budget changes, which include a 35% reduction in funding and a transfer of HIDTA oversight from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). These changes threaten to undermine HIDTA's proven governance structure, reduce operational flexibility, and hinder ongoing investigations. The current ONDCP framework allows local agencies to tailor responses to emerging threats, a capability that may be compromised under a more centralized DOJ model.

We respectfully urge decision-makers to reconsider these proposed changes. HIDTA's strength lies in its ability to unify agencies across all levels of government under a neutral and collaborative model. Preserving both its structure and funding is essential to ensuring public safety throughout Texas and surrounding regions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clint McDonald".

William "Clint" McDonald
Executive Director
Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition

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