



DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

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The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DE 20510

August 8, 2025

Dear Senator Blunt Rochester,

As President of the Delaware Association of Chiefs of Police and a senior law enforcement leader, I'm compelled to speak out against two provisions in the proposed FY2026 federal budget that would significantly undercut our efforts to combat violent drug trafficking. The plan to slash funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program by 35%, coupled with the proposed shift of HIDTA from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice, would be a serious step backward for public safety.

The HIDTA program has long stood as a model of coordination between federal, state, and local agencies. Its current structure—anchored within ONDCP—promotes regional collaboration, balanced decision-making, and the flexibility needed to respond to the unique drug threats facing individual communities. That framework has delivered real results. In 2024, for example, the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA supported 31 initiatives and disrupted more than \$102 million in narcotics and illicit proceeds across our region.

But HIDTA's value extends far beyond enforcement. It has been instrumental in intelligence sharing, tracking fugitives, building partnerships with public health providers, and delivering officer safety training. These successes stem directly from its neutral, non-enforcement-led governance model—something that would be lost if the program is moved under DOJ control.

We cannot afford to undercut a program with this kind of track record. On behalf of law enforcement agencies across Delaware, I strongly urge you to preserve ONDCP's oversight of HIDTA and ensure full funding for this vital public safety tool.

RP McCabe

Richard P. McCabe
President, Delaware Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief of Police, New Castle City Police Department