

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Dave Joyce
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Joyce and Ranking Member Hoyer,

We write to respectfully request that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government appropriate \$333 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which is an essential implementor of the national and regional drug control strategy and strong component of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

The HIDTA Program is a critical asset to state and local law enforcement officers in their efforts to combat drug trafficking, money laundering, and related violence in our nation's communities. The HIDTA Program coordinates federal, state, local, Tribal, and territory drug task forces to disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTO) and money laundering organizations (MLO). It also engages and provides support to state and federal prosecutors to convict individuals associated with these DTOs.

ONDCP manages the HIDTA Program, and this unique structure creates a balanced approach by providing equal representation and collaboration from federal, state, and local criminal justice leaders. Any attempt to remove the HIDTA program from ONDCP would undermine its effectiveness and partnership between local, state, and federal law enforcement.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows that overdose deaths have been decreasing for more than two years, serving as the longest drop in decades. Overdose deaths in the United States dropped 21 percent through August 2025. This is in part due to HIDTA's effective work to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and related violence. In 2025, HIDTAs investigated 9,947 DTOs and MLOs and disrupted or dismantled 3,352 of these organizations. The HIDTA program reported seizing over \$21 billion in illegal drugs, \$576.5 million in cash, and \$256.2 million in assets in 2025 for a total return on program investment of \$82.97.

To maintain this positive momentum, we must continue to provide law enforcement with the tools that they need to ensure they are able to meet the dynamic challenges posed by both transnational criminal organizations as well as street-level dealers. We applaud the effort to combine prevention, education, intelligence, enforcement resources, and drug treatment in our worst-hit states and the District of Columbia, and we must not relent in these efforts. Too many

individuals – and by extension, their families and friends – are suffering from the devastating effects of substance use disorder and addiction.

In recent years, currency, drug, and other asset seizures made by HIDTA operations have yielded billions of dollars that transnational criminal organizations would have used to reinvest in the illegal drug trade. Instead, the money was reinvested in efforts to undermine this scourge.

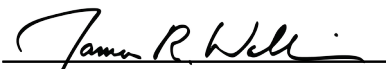
HIDTAs operate in 96 of the nation’s 100 most populous metropolitan regions and are deeply embedded in public safety planning for major events within their jurisdictions. These task forces are not peripheral, they are integral to intelligence sharing, interagency coordination, and operational readiness. HIDTAs are actively engaged in security planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, participating in national and regional pre-planning efforts, including coordination calls with FIFA organizers and the development of joint law enforcement strategies in host cities. As the United States prepares to host one of the largest international events in the world, maintaining robust HIDTA coordination is not optional, it is essential to ensuring safe, secure, and well-managed operations across all participating regions.

Our local, state, federal, Tribal, and territory law enforcement officers have effectively responded to regional threats and have adapted quickly to emerging challenges. Their efforts and operations are rising to meet the increasing threats opioids are posing to our communities. But, as members of Congress, we must do our part to ensure that they are able to continue this life-saving work by providing robust funding for the HIDTA Program.

In light of the decrease in overdose deaths and enhanced security needs due to major events, the HIDTA Program’s effectiveness on the ground, and the fact that nearly 70 percent of the country’s population lives in a designated HIDTA, the need is greater than ever to support this vital law enforcement program. We recognize the challenges of the current fiscal environment and thank you for your effort and consideration of FY2027 appropriations priorities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical request.

Sincerely,



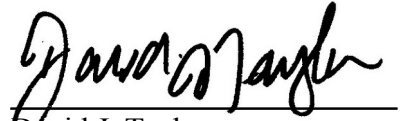
James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



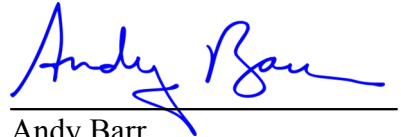
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



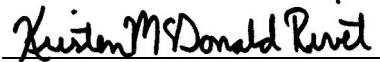
David J. Taylor
Member of Congress



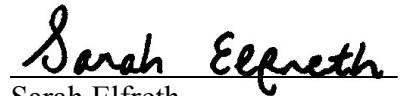
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress




Andy Barr
Member of Congress



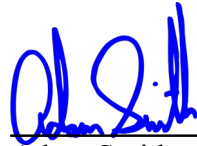
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress
Kansas Third District



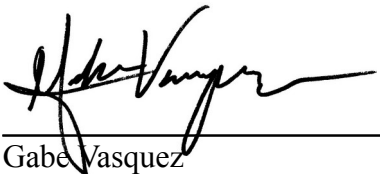
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



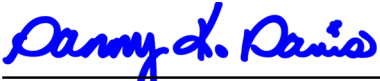
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



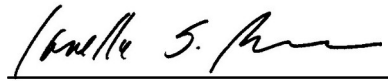
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



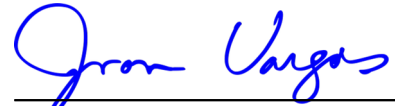
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



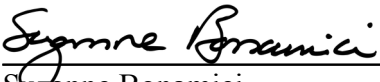
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



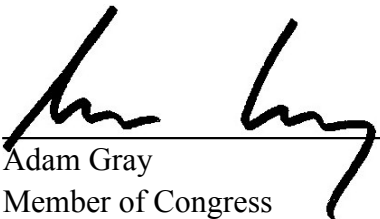
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress