

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 7, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science, and Related Agencies
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmans Cole and Rogers, Ranking Members DeLauro and Meng,

We write to express strong concerns with the Administration's request for a 35% reduction in funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program as well as the transfer of the program to the Department of Justice from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

As you are aware, there are 33 HIDTAs throughout the U.S., with the program serving all 50 states with the goal of facilitating coordination between regional drug-control efforts to reduce drug trafficking. This program was created by Congress in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, and provides essential assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States. It's imperative this program continues to receive full funding and resources in order to reduce drug trafficking and minimize its deadly consequences.

Regional HIDTAs, such as the New England HIDTA (NEHIDTA), are comprised of federal, state, and local partners including police departments, the National Guard, department of corrections, and more. These partnerships represent the best of interagency coordination to respond to the most serious drug threats to the region. Proposed structural changes and funding reductions will negatively impact this coordination as well as tactical analytical assistance which the NEHIDTA provided in 682 cases in 2024.¹ Additionally, without full funding, HIDTAs will be unable to complete their mission, which in a 2024 report included 945 initiatives comprised of 23,053 federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agents, officers, analysts, attorneys, support personnel, and drug treatment and prevention specialists, 70 percent of which were state, local, or Tribal agency participants.

¹ <https://www.nehidta.org/isc>

Local partners have also raised their concerns. The Administration's request to cut HIDTA funding by \$102 million dollars has also received 67 letters of opposition and counting from police departments, sheriffs' associations, police chiefs' associations, associations of narcotics enforcers, and non-profits.² We urge you to heed our collective call and ensure that HIDTAs receive the full funding and structural support needed to protect our communities. We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

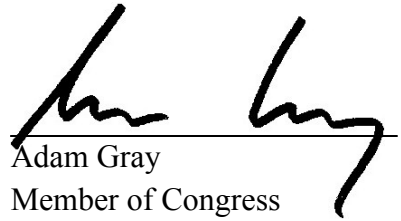
Sincerely,



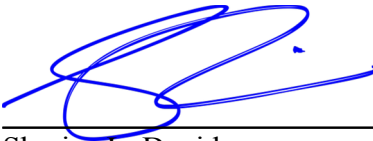
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



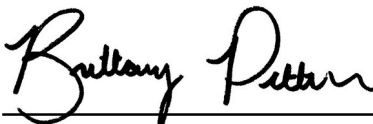
Adam Gray
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



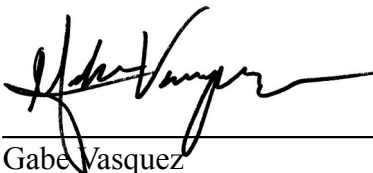
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Brittany Petterson
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

² <https://hidtadirectors.org/hidta-resources/call-to-action/>