

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

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

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

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves,

We write to respectfully request that the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee appropriate \$290 million for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which is an essential component of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

The HIDTA Program has been a critical asset to state and local law enforcement officers as they combat drug trafficking in our nation's communities. The HIDTA Program coordinates federal, state, and local drug task forces to disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking organizations. It also engages and provides support to state and federal prosecutors to convict individuals associated with these drug trafficking organizations.

We applaud the effort to combine prevention, education, intelligence, and enforcement resources 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 drug abuse and addiction.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, every day more than 128 Americans die from overdosing on opioids. More than 70,200 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017, including illicit drugs, such as heroin, fentanyl, and fentanyl analogs. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans under 50.

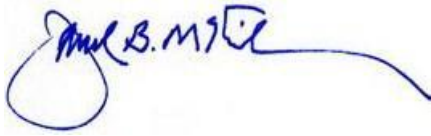
In recent years, seizures made by HIDTA operations have yielded billions of dollars that transnational criminal organizations would have used to reinvest in the illegal drug trade. Instead, the money was reinvested in efforts to undermine this scourge.

Our local, state, and federal law enforcement officers have done an exceptional job. 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 live-saving work and meet the dynamic challenges posed by both transnational criminal organizations as well as street-level dealers.

In light of the HIDTA Program's effectiveness on the ground, the counties that continue to be added to the program annual, and the fact that more than 60 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 FY2021 appropriations priorities. Your leadership on the Appropriations Committee is most appreciated.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Member of Congress

FY21 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Funding
also submitted by:

Danny K. Davis
Peter A. DeFazio
Jenniffer González-Colón
Brian Fitzpatrick
Suzanne Bonamici
David Scott
Alcee L. Hastings
Cindy Axne
Anthony G. Brown
Dave Loebsack
John Yarmuth
Stacey E. Plaskett
Brian Higgins
John P. Sarbanes
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Daniel W. Lipinski
Stephanie Murphy
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Bill Johnson
Brendan F. Boyle
Stephen F. Lynch
Scott R. Tipton
Jody Hice
Mike Thompson
Jared Huffman

Andy Barr
André Carson
Jackie Speier
John Katko
Susie Lee
Adam Smith
Tulsi Gabbard
Joe Courtney
Ben Ray Luján
Elise M. Stefanik
Michael R. Turner
Jahana Hayes
Bryan Steil
TJ Cox
Eric Swalwell
Don Young
Jimmy Panetta
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Mike Levin
Kim Schrier, M.D.
David Kustoff
James P. McGovern
Juan Vargas
Rosa DeLauro
David N. Cicilline
Carol D. Miller

Mark DeSaulnier