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Via Email

June 19, 2025  
Arizona Congressional Delegation  
United States Congress  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to FY 2026 Budget Proposal to Relocate and Cut HIDTA Program

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I write to urge you to reject President Trump's Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal that defunds and undermines law enforcement by cutting the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program by 35% and moving it from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). This proposal will harm our nation's ongoing efforts to combat drug trafficking and the fentanyl crises. The savings from this budget cut will be paid in lives, while helping line the pockets of the Mexican drug cartels.

The HIDTA program is a success because it fosters collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies while remaining community-focused. In 2025, 90% of HIDTA's funding will go to state and local law enforcement. In Arizona, this funding brings together law enforcement from across the State, supporting 27 initiatives that include 90 agencies and 800 law enforcement officers and support staff. It also gives officers the necessary training and tools to intercept illicit drugs before they reach our communities. There is no doubt that HIDTA initiatives are a major part of law enforcement's success fighting the Mexican cartels' efforts to flood our communities with fentanyl and methamphetamine.

In Arizona, HIDTA is on the front lines of our nation's fentanyl crises. For years, at least half of our country's total fentanyl seizures are made by Arizona law enforcement. In 2024, Arizona law enforcement agencies seized over 83 million pills and over 2,000 kilograms of fentanyl powder, much of which would have distributed by the cartels to communities across the United States. Nationwide, HIDTA initiatives prevented \$17.7 billion in illicit profits and undoubtedly reduced the violent crime that often accompanies drug trafficking. Outside of enforcement, HIDTA is partnering with public health and other local organizations across the country to provide community-based prevention and treatment options. And its innovative Overdose Mapping and Application Program (ODMAP) is helping first responders prevent overdose deaths.

A 35% budget cut would devastate these efforts in our state to interdict narcotics, dismantle trafficking networks, and prevent overdoses. It would defund local and state law enforcement and result in fewer resources for interdiction efforts, fewer investigations targeting Mexican cartels, and reduced support for law enforcement officers risking their lives on the front lines. The end result would be more deadly fentanyl and methamphetamine in America's communities, more violent crime, and more opioid overdoses.

Earlier this year, Senator Mark Kelly's HIDTA Enhancement Act would have increased HIDTA's funding to \$333 million. I supported that effort and called on the DEA Administrator to restore \$300,000 and 50 agent positions in DEA's Arizona office. We are finally seeing the results of years of investing in law enforcement and public health to fight the opioid epidemic. For the first time in years, opioid deaths are decreasing nationwide. Now is not the time to defund the excellent work of law enforcement and public health.

I have mobilized my Office's resources to stop the fentanyl crisis, and I expect the same from the federal government. Early this year, President Trump stated in EO 14288, "[s]afe communities rely on the backbone and heroism of a tough and well-equipped police force." I expect you to hold President to his words and oppose these dangerous and shortsighted cuts to HIDTA. Let's not make it easier for the Mexican cartels to flood our communities with these dangerous drugs.

Respectfully,



Kris Mayes  
Arizona Attorney General