



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

July 23, 2025

Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY2026 Appropriations for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the 3,081 Sheriffs nationwide, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) writes to voice its continued support for the federal investment for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and urges the Committee to provide full funding for the program at \$299.6 million in the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Earlier this week, the House Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee met to consider its Fiscal Year 2026 bill, and the measure was approved. As that process continues, it is more important than ever that funding for HIDTA be sustained at the \$299.6 million level to ensure continuity and stability for participating agencies across the country.

HIDTA is a cornerstone of the national effort to combat drug trafficking and its devastating effects. It enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, many of whom operate daily on the front lines of the overdose epidemic. Sheriffs serving in HIDTA designated regions and participating in federal task forces routinely confront transnational criminal organizations involved in both drug and human trafficking.

The HIDTA program provides essential resources including coordination, equipment, intelligence-sharing, and technological support. These investments reduce duplication of efforts and enhance cross-jurisdictional collaboration by ensuring that federal, state, and local agencies can operate as one coordinated force.

HIDTA is not merely a funding stream, it is a national coordinating umbrella that ensures a unified front against narcotics trafficking, overdose deaths, and the violent criminal enterprises behind them. As such, we urge the Committee to provide no less than \$299.6 million in FY2026

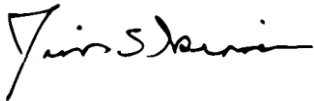
to continue HIDTA's critical support to the field and ensure current HIDTAs are maintained at their base levels.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to protecting our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris West", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheriff Chris West, Canadian County, OK
President, National Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Skinner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheriff Jim Skinner, Collin County, TX
Second Vice President and Chair, Government Affairs Committee, National Sheriffs' Association

cc:

Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director & CEO, National Sheriffs' Association